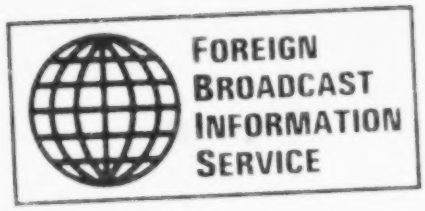

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-027
Wednesday
10 February 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-027

CONTENTS

10 February 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Aide Interviewed on Territories *[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Feb]* 2
No Plans To End Palestinian Uprising *[TAP]* 2
DFLP Official Says Unrest Under PLO Control *[Prague CTK]* 3
Israeli Settlers Warned Against Attacks *[Voice the PLO]* 3
Al-Quds Radio Views U.S. Stand on Uprising 4
'Atallah 'Atallah on Uprising, Jordan Ties *[Amman AL-QUDS 1 Feb]* 5
Khuri Discusses 'Return Ship', Jordan Ties *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Jan]* 6
Ship Voyage 'Postponed' *[KUNA]* 6
PLO Official Rejects Government-in-Exile *[London AL-TADAMUN 30 Jan]* 6
Al-Wazir Acknowledges UK Radio Purchase *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Feb]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Continue Talks 8
Al-Qadhdhafi Departs Algeria 8

Egypt

Full Diplomatic Relations Restored With PDRY 8
Further on Restoration *[AFP]* 9
'Source' Denies Meeting With Israel, Jordan 9
Mubarak Insists Talks in U.S. Were 'General' *[London AL-HAWADITH 5 Feb]* 9
Mubarak Rejected Shamir Request for Meeting *[AL-SHA'B 2 Feb]* 10
Al-Sharif on Mubarak's Cabinet Meeting Remarks 10
Al-Baz on Peace Process, U.S. Initiative 11
'No Substance' in U.S. Mideast Initiative *[AL-AHRAM 8 Feb]* 12
Murphy Departs Cairo for Tel Aviv 9 Feb 12
U.S. Missile System Talks 'Mere Buffoonery' 12
Abu Ghazalah Cited on Gulf War, Other Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Feb]* 12
Al-Sayyid Notes 'Readiness' To Arm Kuwait 13
Bahrain's Al Khalifah Concludes Visit 9 Feb 13
Turkish State Minister Arrives for Talks 9 Feb 13
Further on French Friendship Delegation's Visit 13
Received by Mubarak 9 Feb 13
Meets With Sidqi 14
Joint Togolese Communique Supports 'Conference' 14
Various Ministers Arrive for Security Symposium 14
Qatar Represented 14
Bahrain Sends Interior Minister 14
Kuwaiti Minister Comments 15
Sudan's Al-Husayn Attends 15
Mauritania Sends Minister 15
Moroccan Minister Arrives 15
Delegation To Board Palestinian Deportees' Ship 15
EC Statement on Occupied Territories Welcomed 15
Israeli Measures, 'Blindness to Facts' Scored 15

Libya

Afghan Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart *[Kabul]* 16
Jallud Receives Wakil 16
Jallud Receives PFLP Delegation 9 Feb 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Sets Up Palestinian Unit *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 8 Feb]* 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Talks With Ghana's Rawlings 16
Lebanon's Hawi Arrives for Visit 9 Feb 16
Jallud Meets Socialist, Sudanese Officials 16

Sudan

Minister Says Dialogue With Garang 'Welcomed' 17
Government Soldiers 'Repulsed' to Juba 8 Feb *[Radio SPLA]* 17

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Saqiyat Memorial Ceremony *[Tripoli Television]* 17
Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Depart 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Interior Minister Leaves on Visit to Egypt 24
Deputy Premier Al-Sabah Meets Cuba's Mazola 24
Daily Views U.S. Attempts To Thwart 'Uprising' *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 7 Feb]* 24

PDRY

Government Restores Diplomatic Ties With Egypt 25
Al-Bid Successfully Undergoes Surgery in Moscow 25

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Foreign Minister's U.S. Visit 25
Presents Messages From King 25
Meets With Shultz 25
Departs for Home 10 Feb 26
Commentary on Pilgrimage Notes 'Evil' in Iran 26
Abd al-'Aziz Chairs Council of Ministers 8 Feb 26
Chadian Executed in Jeddah for Drugs Offense 27

Yemen Arab Republic

'Source' Denies Military Force Sent to Libya 27
Mineral Cooperation Talks With Soviets Conclude 27

IRAQ

Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives With Message 28
'Official' Talks Begin 28
INA Director Views New French Transmission 28
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 29
Communique No 3,015 29
2 'Maritime Targets' Hit 29
Saddam Disbands Groups of Draftees, Reservists 29

ISRAEL

Murphy Arrives on Mideast Shuttle Mission 30
Peres Urges Support for Plan 30
Shamir Sending 2 'Signals' 30

Peres Comments on Initiative 30
Shamir Meets With Murphy 31
Peres Meets With Murphy 31
Shamir Rules Out Parts of Plan 31
Rabin Meets With Murphy 32
Details of U.S. Plan Revealed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Feb]* 32
Shamir Urged To Accept Plan *[HADASHOT 7 Feb]* 33
AL-NAHAR 'Skeptical' of Move *[5 Feb]* 33
Egyptian Peace Plan Urges Tripartite Meeting *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Feb]* 33
Egyptian Ambassador on Peace Process, Unrest *[MA'ARIV 8 Feb]* 34
Tamir, Jordanians, Egyptians Confer on Peace 34
U.S. Appeals To Prevent Tamir Visit to Panama 34
Visit Not To Be Canceled 34
Foreign Ministry Regrets 'Critical' EC Remarks 35
Shamir Terms Decision 'Unjust' *[MA'ARIV 9 Feb]* 35
Editorial Advocates Efforts To Oust Waldheim *[MA'ARIV 9 Feb]* 35
Shamir Criticizes Alignment Stand on Settlement 35
Weizman Calls For Negotiations, End to Unrest *[AL-NAHAR 7 Feb]* 36
Leaders Urged To Face 'Reality' in Territories *[AL-NAHAR 8 Feb]* 36
Editorial on Effects of Settlers Provocations *[AL-NAHAR 6 Feb]* 36
Divided Jerusalem Seen as 'Microcosm' of Unrest *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Feb]* 37
Leadership Factions in Territories Described *[HA'ARETZ 8 Feb]* 37
More on Events, Disturbances in Territories 38
Youth's Body Found in Tulkarm 38
Qaddum Youth 'Shot' by Settler 39
Settler Released on Bail 39
Gazans Stone Hebronites *[MA'ARIV 9 Feb]* 39
'Exceptional Incidents' in Gaza 39
Youth Dies of Wounds in Gaza 39
21 Arabs Detained in Jerusalem 40
Pamphlet Printing Shop Closed 40
2 Wounded in Nabulus Riots 40
Update on Unrest Casualties *[HA'ARETZ 9 Feb]* 40

JORDAN

'Return Ship' Passengers Leave for Athens 41
Prime Minister Returns From Europe 9 Feb 41
Crown Prince Hasan Views Palestinian Situation *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Feb]* 41
Royal Decree Extends Parliament Session 42

LEBANON

Imam Musa al-Sadr To Appear 'in 4 Weeks' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 43
Council Has No Information *[VOL]* 43
Negotiations on UNRWA Hostages Continue *[Stockholm]* 43
UNIFIL Spokesman Denies Kidnapping Attempt *[RFL]* 43
5 Frenchmen Investigating Merrin's Death *[VOL]* 43
9 February Group Claims Attacks on Syrians *[RFL]* 43
Israeli Warplanes, Gunboats Near Sidon *[VOM]* 43
Overflights Continue 10 Feb *[RFL]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Still Control Highway Link to USSR *[AFP]* 44
'Extremist Group Ringleaders' Caught, Punished 44
'Terrorist' Group Captured in Herat Province 44
Keshtmand Addresses Cotton Growers Assembly 45
Najibullah Closing Address 46

India

Gandhi Rules Out Compromise on Siachen Issue 47
'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab; 2 Arrested 47

Iran

Khamene'i Greets Khomeyni on 10 Days on Dawn 47
Khomeyni Speech on Anniversary of Revolution 48
Khomeyni Frees Prisoners, Reduces Sentences 49
Khamene'i Addresses Foreign Ambassadors 49
Majlis Speaker Urges Participation in Rallies 50
Musavi Speaks at Ahvaz Celebrations 51
New Zealand Minister Concludes Visit, Departs 52
UK Minesweepers To Leave; 'Failure' of Mission 52
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 53
Communique No 3,107 53
'Novel' Interception Techniques 53

Pakistan

USSR Remarks on Afghan Pullout 'Welcomed' 53
USSR's Vorontsov Arrives for Afghan Talks 53
Meets With Noorani 54
UN's Cordovez Holds News Conference on Talks 54
UAE President Begins 6-Day Visit to Lahore 54
Meets With Ziaul Haq 54
DAWN Urges Mujahidin Involvement in Talks *[29 Jan]* 54
Front Leader Calls For Confederation System *[DAWN 30 Jan]* 55

Sri Lanka

Indian Envoy Interviewed on Troop Presence *[AFP]* 56
Nationwide 'Terrorist' Incidents Detailed 57
LTTE Landmine Kills 10 57

10 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD101400 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Murphy Visit—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy only partially answered the questions raised by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Israel is hoping to receive further "clarifications" from the United States, Shamir's spokesman disclosed to Jerusalem radio. According to IDF radio, Shamir has ruled out two components of the U.S. initiative: the international conference and the proposal that a date be set in advance for talks on permanent arrangements.

Murphy also met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who told IDF radio afterward that he welcomes the new U.S. initiative, even though the ideas brought by Murphy are "not consolidated" and lack "details." Stressing his support for any peace move, Peres said he would be glad if Israel could find an Arab partner for negotiations without an international conference, but "at this stage, I am not sure one exists."

Comment on PLO 'Return' Ship—The PLO's plan to send a boat to Haifa is "a hostile act which endangers the state of Israel," Shamir stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. The "murderers' organization" is displaying "the ultimate in chutzpah and hypocrisy," he maintained, and the boat will be carrying "murderers and terrorists" who wanted to kill "all" Israelis. Shamir viewed the Arab credo of return as "a call to war against the entire people of Israel." Jerusalem television and IDF radio likewise carried remarks by Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicating that Israel will not let the boat approach the Israeli coast.

For the PLO's part, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid Al-Sa'ih stated that the Palestinians embarking on the "return" voyage will be ready to face whatever measures Israel adopts, including possible arrest or the sinking of the ship, PETRA-JNA reported. Al-Sa'ih, who heads the ship committee, stressed that none of the passengers will be carrying weapons.

West Bank, Gaza—The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the deaths of two youths, one from the Tulkarm area and the other from Gaza, Jerusalem radio reported. Another Arab youth from Gaza also died amid unknown circumstances, IDF radio noted. As for the 8 February killing of a youth from Kafr Qaddum, near Nabulus, IDF radio reported that a Jewish settler suspected of the deed was released on bail after appearing in court. In Baghdad, Voice of the PLO radio warned that the Palestinians have the right to defend themselves against the settlers "with every available means."

Egyptian-PDRY Relations

Egypt and the PDRY announced their decision to restore full diplomatic relations as of 9 February in a joint statement carried by MENA and Aden radio. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, asserted that the resumption of relations will give greater "effectiveness and dynamism" to joint Arab action, MENA noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets struck two "very large" maritime targets off the Iranian coast 9 February, according to an Iraqi military spokesman's statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. The spokesman stated that the jets returned to base safely and made no reference to Iranian claims of having downed three Iraqi warplanes earlier the same day. However, an Iranian commander cited by IRNA said that the Iranian Air Force foiled Iraqi air strikes on shipping in the Gulf and employed "novel dogfighting techniques" in downing the three Iraqi planes.

Sudan

Minister of Presidential Affairs Salah 'Abd al-Salam stated that there has been "no government decision" to halt negotiations with the SPLM-SPLA, adding that any such negotiations will be "welcomed" if proposed by the rebels.

In the south, the clandestine SPLA radio announced that SPLA forces have repulsed an 8 February Army advance from Juba, killing 36 government soldiers. The radio warned foreign nationals to evacuate Juba and Torit, as these towns are now under SPLA siege.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Aide Interviewed on Territories

TA081128 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] "If Rabin will order a cease-fire, we will consider ordering our men to stop the stone throwing and the demonstrations." This was said by 'Arafat's aide Bassam Abu Sharif, who is currently considered 'Arafat's closest confidant, in a telephone interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Abu Sharif doubts the defense minister's willingness to bring about a cease-fire, and as an example he cited the 1981 cease-fire between Israel and the PLO, which he claims Israel did not respect. Abu Sharif said that "despite my doubts, we want to reach a settlement. If Rabin orders a cease-fire, we will consider ordering our men to stop also." The PLO member stressed, however, that "if there is no alternative, we will continue the uprising—even if all of us have to die."

Bassam Abu Sharif is a Palestinian from Kafr 'Aqab near Ramallah. He was wounded by a letter bomb which blinded him in one eye and severed some of his fingers. He was originally a member of George Habash's PFLP, but his views became more moderate and he later joined Fatah and became part of 'Arafat's camp. Abu Sharif serves as 'Arafat's adviser on several issues. At present he is handling the deportee vessel and its journey to Israel.

Answering my question on the information possessed by the Palestinian leadership abroad on the events in the territories, Abu Sharif said: "Our sources of information are much better than Shamir thinks. We have friends, and we are following events all the time and in a very accurate way. We are also following the statements made by Israeli ministers. I drew a graph of the statements and a very interesting picture emerged: In the beginning you blamed the PLO. Later Israel blamed the extremist Muslims and then it blamed the local leadership."

Answering my question on the PLO's policy on using firearms, Abu Sharif said: "At the beginning of the uprising we gave clear orders to our men in the territories to engage in unarmed resistance against the Israelis and under no circumstances to use weapons or grenades. The Palestinians in the territories will continue to heed this unequivocal order as long as the PLO insists on this."

Abu Sharif revealed that several days ago, the PLO had decided that every Palestinian family abroad will adopt a Palestinian family from the territories. He said that Palestinians from all over the Arab world have expressed solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories and a willingness to help them.

Answering my question on the Fatah squad's infiltration of the Galilee last Thursday, Abu Sharif said that the Palestinians will continue their attempts to infiltrate into the Galilee as long as Israeli forces remain in southern Lebanon. Abu Sharif did not answer my question on the connection between last Thursday's infiltration and the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Abu Sharif confirmed a report, published in one of the newspapers over the weekend, that Israeli soldiers have helped Palestinian mothers obtain milk for their children during the curfew. He said, however, that in other cases Israeli soldiers prevented women from receiving milk and other vital commodities for their families.

On the expected departure of the Palestinian deportee vessel, Abu Sharif revealed that the ship intends to get as close as possible to the coast off Rafah. He claims that the vessel will depart on schedule this Wednesday, and added that the PLO is making an effort to include several Jewish rabbis on the voyage.

Abu Sharif sharply criticized Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, saying that the PLO cannot trust him. As an example, Abu Sharif divulged that before the withdrawal from Lebanon, Rabin—through a third party—proposed a cease-fire to the PLO that would include an end to the attacks against the IDF. The PLO rejected this proposal.

Bassam Abu Sharif gave an example of the settlers' cruelty toward Arab residents. He claims that on Saturday, four members of the Hamdan Shatiyah family, residents of the village of Salim near Nabulus, were kidnapped by the settlers and buried with only their heads above ground. They were extricated by passing Bedouins and are currently being hospitalized in Jericho. Abu Sharif calls on the defense minister to check out this incident and verify the accuracy of his claims.

No Plans To End Palestinian Uprising

LD091503 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 9 Feb (TAP)—The WAFA political editor in Tunis has denied that the PLO is considering the possibility of ending the uprising if the Nazi Israeli Minister Rabin stopped firing indiscriminately at unarmed civilians among the sons of the Palestinian people inside the occupied land.

The political editor said that the uprising is continuing and will not stop before the end of the occupation and the recovery by the Palestinian people of their firm inalienable legitimate national rights.

The political editor added: The matter is not only related to the official terrorist and repressive practices staged by Israel against our unarmed people, but to a continuous

history of terrorism and racism as well as individual and mass killing. All this will have to be stopped by putting an end to occupation before the PLO starts considering the ending of the struggle.

DFLP Official Says Unrest Under PLO Control

LD081556 Prague CTK in English 1505 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut Feb 8 (CTK correspondent)—Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories is firmly controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and will not cease until Israel withdraws from the territories, an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said today.

"The course of the uprising clearly proves...it represents an organized movement led by the Joint Palestinian Command in the occupied territories which is controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization," the official, Abu Samra told CTK.

He said the "popular uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had the backing of Lebanon's Palestinian population as a part of the Arab struggle for the liberation of the occupied territories and a just solution of the Palestinian question.

"The Lebanese Palestinians are ready to make the maximum contribution possible to the joint struggle" against the Israeli rule, he said.

He added the DFLP believed the protests, which began last December, would continue until the Palestinians achieved their ultimate goal—an Israeli withdrawal from the territories followed by the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

"We believe (the uprising) will go on until the declared goals—a withdrawal by the occupiers and the creation of an independent Palestinian state—are achieved," Abu Samra said.

He also welcomed the lifting of a siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon by the Shi'ite Moslem Amal militia last month in support of the Palestinian unrest in the West Bank and Gaza.

He said Palestinian groups in Lebanon called upon the Palestinian movement "to boost unity...under the PLO leadership and remove all internal differences" to secure the success of the joint struggle.

Israeli Settlers Warned Against Attacks

JN092129 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1845 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "The Participation of the Herds of Zionist Settlers in the Attacks Against Our Steadfast People Has Many Serious Indications"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people and sons of our glorious Arab nation: A few days ago the Palestinian command warned the international public and the public in the Zionist entity against the occupation authorities' continued escalation of the serious phenomenon of making the Zionist settlers participate in the attacks against our heroic people in the cities, villages, and camps in our occupied homeland, after supplying them with weapons and indoctrinating them with racist ideas. The occupation authorities are also encouraging these settlers to actively participate in the crimes and aggression against our people's lives and properties. Such a phenomenon has serious repercussions and signals, and the Zionist occupation will inevitably bear the brunt of its dire consequences sooner or later.

The truth is that in the past few days the Zionist settlers' provocations have reached their climax. These settlers assemble like mad wolves and organize armed attacks against isolated villages, the perimeters of camps, or some quarters in the cities. They plunder, set things on fire, vandalize houses, and kidnap children and young men. These Zionist settlers have even fallen so low as to kidnap some men and bury them alive. These pictures of the barbarism of the Zionist settlers, of the vileness of their crimes, and of their racist rancor make things appear in a different light to the international public. While our heroic Palestinian people exercise their legitimate right to confront the occupation of their land, the herds of Zionist settlers who have not been harmed yet in any way whatsoever by the men of the uprising are transferring the confrontation to arenas that will have dire consequences. The men of the uprising have not harmed them yet because the force of the uprising is being mobilized against the soldiers, tanks, and helicopters. The Zionist settlers are thus taking sides with the Army forces, the so-called border guards, and the shock troops. From this premise, our people have every right to defend themselves against these Zionist herds with every available means.

The international community, which is witnessing the crimes of these settlers against our people, must either warn them against the dire consequences of their actions and deter them, or accept the idea that these settlers will be confronted by our people, revolutionaries, and fedayeen, who will safeguard the lives of our people and heroes. The rancorous settler who leaves the boundaries of his settlement, takes up arms, and participates in the attacks against our villages, quarters, and camps should know that he will pay a prohibitive price for his crimes, his racist rancor, and his odious attacks. These rancorous settlers have decided to expand the arena of confrontation and clashes themselves. They have chosen to become involved in the confrontation and not let it be restricted to the regular forces and the official occupation authorities. They have chosen to spread this confrontation to all of Zionist society without immunity for anyone because they have started the agression. They are the ones who are escalating crimes and resorting to blind violence.

Since violence breeds violence, the entire Zionist society must expect that our people with their giant generations, revolutionaries, and fighters will not stand idly by while the

settlers pursue their crimes, odious provocations, and barbaric actions. These Zionist settlers will find out that the magic wand will turn against the magician, that the systematic terrorism they are carrying out will backfire, and that their hands which commit crimes and harm our people, women, and children will be charred by our blazing fire. Shame on these Zionist settlers who rush with their racist leaders on the road to crimes against our people. Our ever-escalating uprising will continue until it scores a victory by ending this occupation and establishing the independent Palestinian state that will secure freedom, security, and peace for our people.

Revolution until victory

Al-Quds Radio Views U.S. Stand on Uprising

JN091159 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The U.S. political maneuvers are seeking to abort the great Palestinian uprising. The uprising has shaken the United States and the Zionist entity in an election year. After relinquishing three-quarters of Palestine, they want the Palestinians to relinquish the idea of a Palestinian state.

Throughout modern history, whenever the cause advanced as a result of the actions of its people—that is, by correct action—we find that solutions and promises multiply in order to absorb and deflect the wrath of the masses in order to buy time.

Strangely, there have always been those among Palestinian leaders and others who believed that solutions are forthcoming, and that the adversaries will voluntarily retreat from their stands.

Now, the story is repeated, although its heroes have been repeatedly stung in less than 20 years. When Washington vetoed a draft resolution condemning Zionism's inhuman actions in Palestine—a resolution calling for observance of the Geneva conventions on the protection of the population and authorizing the United Nations to carry out the principal role in the efforts to resolve the issue—the U.S. representative said, justifying the veto, that the resolution conflicts with diplomatic moves which are being implemented. What is important is that the draft resolution was very lenient and followed days of consultations and amendments to satisfy Washington. Thus the U.S. President polished the image of the Zionist entity in the violation of human rights. He also robbed the United Nations of any role in the efforts to bring about a peaceful solution. Furthermore, he gave his administration the sole right to seek a solution.

The U.S.-Zionist aim is crystal clear; namely, to immediately abort the uprising and to leave the running of Palestinian affairs to a local administration. They also want to embroil the Arabs in a situation where there are those who reject and those who accept a Camp David solution. Furthermore, the U.S.-Zionist plan aims to lead the population of the occupied territory toward Byzantine feuding over a solution or solutions, so that the Zionist entity will become the arbiter in such disputes instead of being the opponent.

The Zionist entity and the United States consider themselves to be the losers in the deal. They also believe that they are forced to make a move, whatever it may be. That is true.

The Zionist goal in occupation is known. It is to take the land without the people. If there is no escape from accepting the Palestinian people, then their role will be to serve the Zionist economy at the least financial, political, and social cost. However, the Zionist entity does not want to relinquish the land. If any solution is imposed upon it, the goal remains to have relations with the Arab world, continue the occupation, and exploit the Palestinian people.

Brother strugglers, the uprising has changed the facts and confirmed that there is no return to the situation of 2 months ago. The uprising's many achievements have compelled Washington to make a political move whatever it may be, in a U.S. presidential election year. That was not expected by anyone familiar with U.S. politics.

The same thing happened with the Zionist entity, where elections are scheduled to be held in November. However, it succumbed to accepting some solution prior to the elections, and to embarking on permanent solutions after the elections, all thanks to the Palestinian uprising. However, the uprising did not at all aim to revive a Palestinian Camp David. Therefore, there is not a single justification to end the uprising before achieving the minimal acceptable solution, namely the withdrawal of the Zionist forces and the entry of international forces that pave the way for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

That is the minimal solution acceptable to the masses and on which there is official agreement among the Arab states, regardless of whether such a solution is achieved through an international conference, the United Nations, or through any other means.

In its numerous initiatives Washington never sought to achieve a genuine solution, because the Arabs used to accept most U.S. proposals. The aim has been, and continues to be, to confuse the Palestinian and Arab ranks, to create sedition, and to abort moves and victories. If Washington had truly wanted a solution it would have exploited one of the periods of Arab and Palestinian complacency and setbacks—and they are many—and proposed and implemented one of its solutions. However, they do not want a solution, albeit a solution against the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation.

Brother strugglers, the Palestinian state has become in 1988, and indeed many years earlier, the maximal demand of some people and the official demand of everyone. Consequently, after forgetting three-quarters of Palestine, the present aim of the U.S. move is to kill the idea of a Palestinian state and to adopt anything between Camp David and the Palestinian state. Thus, differences over what is offered will begin anew, on the path of making further concessions—after the Americans would have aborted the uprising, an important uprising in Palestine's history, and would have prompted Palestinian and Arab forces and leaders to bring about such an achievement. However, they are exploiting the uprising, which is not of their making, to bring small achievements as they imagine. In fact, they are killing and betraying the uprising, instead of supporting and strengthening it, by funds, information, and diplomacy, or by military actions against the Zionist entity in various parts of Palestine—as is expected of the commando organizations.

They want to drug the Palestinian mind once again, and diffuse the stands, so as to deflect the people from the rebellion and to kill the Palestinian will of action, because it is the vanguard that attracts all Arab vanguards that seek change, and because it represents the center of Arab action.

Brothers, the enemies realize that the liquidation of the Palestinian armed revolution represented by the PLO factions does not end the presence of the actual revolution as long as the Palestinian people have the will to fight. The presence of such a will has been proved once again. That will to fight is now the target of the United States and the Zionist enemy which for many years have been seeking to emasculate the Palestinian role in politics and in war, and to expand the framework of Arab decisionmaking on behalf of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives. They have also sought to preoccupy Palestinian forces far from Palestine, so that the Palestinian cause has become a secondary issue in the Arab homeland.

They created battles and massacres. Plans and proposals became abundant. However, nothing happened in practice. They were not able to kill the will to fight which is now expressed in the valiant uprising.

Brothers, whenever the Palestinian people became stronger they rush with solutions to create confusion and to avert the ability to carry out action. That is what has been happening since 1948. Plans multiplied and the Palestinians became confused, lost their will, and waited for action from others. They lived listening to the radio and waiting for solutions that sought to bring about the capitulation, to liquidate, and absorb Palestinian revolutionary forces.

The story has been repeated ever since. They sought to divert the Palestinian people, and consequently the Arab people, from action by proposing any solution. However, solutions were rejection, solutions proposing resettlement or compensation for Palestine.

Now, despite the sweeping uprising that has moved the world and shaken the Zionist entity, we find those who act as though the Palestinian people do not exist and as though they or their representatives do not have a role. They now realize the essence of the issue: a race between the will of the revolution that reflects a potential for action that will lead the region to rebellion and change, and between the will for capitulation that reflects a potential for action that leads the region to collapse and submission.

There are always two approaches to any action: The first is based on what I want, and then I have to create all the conditions to achieve my will. The second approach is what I can do in the existing circumstances, and I have to use my ability within the limits of what is possible. The difference between the two logics is the difference between the mentality of revolution and the mentality of compromise, between the doer and he for whom the action is being done—as the martyr Kamal 'Udwan said.

'Atallah 'Atallah on Uprising, Jordan Ties

JN051608 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Amman, (AL-BURAQ)—Brother Abu al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], commander in chief of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, has affirmed that the popular revolution experienced by our kinfolk in the occupied territory belongs to everyone, without any exception. He said: It is a revolution of the entire Palestinian people. It is not the personal property of any renegade or any false information organ, because it is the movement of the Palestinian people.

Addressing the cadres of the Corrective Movement last Tuesday, Brother Abu al-Za'im said: The popular revolution must reap its fruit. This fruit must be the achievement of a just and lasting peace through an international peace conference sponsored by the United Nations and attended by all parties to the dispute, including the PLO within a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

The brother commander in chief added: We must return to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord which provides for the establishment of a Palestinian entity confederated with the Jordanian entity, so that we can together form a confederation that will maintain the historic ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Brother Abu al-Za'im said: The days have proven that what the Corrective Movement has called for is correct and closer to reality. The extraordinary Arab summit which was held in the Jordanian capital has called for an international peace conference. Foreign powers, including the United States and Russia, are calling for an international peace conference. This is what the Corrective Movement has been calling for since its establishment.

Brother Abu al-Za'im called on all the cadres to actively participate in any conference, rally, or seminar in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Khuri Discusses 'Return Ship', Jordan Ties

PM080949 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bishop Khuri in London: We Prepared Ship To Return to Palestine"]

[Text] London—PLO Executive Committee member Bishop Iliya Khuri declared that the return ship, which will carry all Palestinians who have been expelled from their own land since 1967, is about to begin its journey from a European port to Haifa or another Palestinian port. He said that he had sent invitations to take part in the journey to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, Pope John Paul II, the Shaykh of Al-Azhar, Pope Shanudah, the Orthodox bishop in the Turkish capital, as well as Islamic, Christian, and Jewish figures, representatives of lawyers' and human rights organizations, and media officials. This is in implementation of the decision made by the PNC convened recently in the Iraqi capital.

Bishop Khuri, who spoke at a news conference held at the Arab League headquarters in the British capital, stressed that unless the Palestinian people are restored their right and freedom to establish their independent state, whose capital would be Jerusalem, peace will not be achieved in the region. He said: The popular uprising will continue until the Palestinian people have restored both their freedom and their homeland.

The PLO Executive Committee member expressed his hope that the meetings which began yesterday in Amman between Jordanian and Palestinian officials will produce positive results. Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, he said that "new facts have imposed themselves and there can be no return to the considerations over which the talks stopped."

As'ad al-Muqaddim, Arab League office director, talked at the conference about the activities of the Arab League office and the Arab Ambassadors Council in London, including the meetings with David Mellor, British minister of state for foreign affairs, both before and after his visit to the occupied territories, as well as the meeting with Shadow Foreign Secretary Gerald Kaufman. He said that Arab diplomatic action in the British capital has achieved excellent results and that the position toward the Palestinian cause is now a conviction imposing itself at all levels.

Ship Voyage 'Postponed'

LD101111 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Athens, Feb 10 (KUNA)—The voyage of a ship which was due to set sail from Greece to the Port of Haifa in occupied Palestine Wednesday with 130 Palestinian deportees on board has been postponed, a source told KUNA.

The source could not say why the voyage was postponed but noted that an official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization which organized the event was to hold a press conference in the afternoon to give further details on the matter.

PLO Official Rejects Government-in-Exile

PM081055 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 29

[Interview with Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PLO Executive Committee member and PFLP deputy secretary general, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] Analyses by Western observers indicate that the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza will produce new leaderships inside [the occupied territories] that might replace that of the PLO. Can it be assumed that it is the inside which will speak in the name of the Palestinians?

[Mustafa] The leaderships produced by the uprising exist among our people; and all our people agree that their sole legitimate representative is the PLO. The Palestinians today are maintaining an integrated struggle unity, since the uprising cannot be viewed as being accidental; it is deeply linked to the struggle process in which the Palestinian people are engaged. Our people's struggle inside Palestine cannot be mechanically separated from that outside, as claimed by some circles. I believe that what our people are expressing daily—their adherence to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative and leader of struggle—especially inside Palestine, is strong evidence and the answer to the voices contending that the current events are taking place away from the leadership, ignoring the slogans raised inside on banners, walls, statements, and memoranda issued by national action leaders in various towns.

[Khashanah] It has also been reported that at its recent meeting the Central Council discussed the idea of announcing a government-in-exile. What was the response to the idea?

[Mustafa] The agenda of the Central Council extraordinary session in Baghdad included one item only—the popular uprising in the occupied territories—since it was our main concern. Aware of the importance of what was happening inside, the Council did not dwell on any other issues. The final statement summed up the session's most important events. Reports that the idea of a government-in-exile was discussed or examined are untrue. We were eager not to include any issue other than the principal one on the agenda. As for the statements made here and there, they do not represent the position of the collective leading authorities within the PLO. The talk about this issue on the part of some Palestinian officials caused unwanted confusion on both the Palestinian and Arab scene. Anyhow, it is still premature, because when a revolution wants to announce its government it must secure both subjective and objective factors in order to be able to form such a government. Since

this issue was only mentioned in such statements, which were of no benefit to the uprising, the Central Council urged the Palestinian leading authorities to adhere to the stand of developing the course of the uprising and enhancing the popular movement's status.

[Khashanah] What about the legal committee assigned to prepare a clear conception of a government-in-exile?

[Mustafa] There are no official assignments. Some tried to include this issue in the agenda, but the Council refused. Of course, any issue can be discussed within any nationalist authority; the conveyer of infidelity is not an infidel, so to speak. But there is a difference between the issue being discussed by leading authorities and it being raised within the media to stir up storms. Thus, we believe that what could be a mistake today might, under the right circumstances, mature as an issue so it can be discussed at a certain stage. If we examine the major revolutionary experiences that embarked on the formation of governments-in-exile, we will find that this was carried out in view of the circumstances. They embarked on this on the eve of victory. As for our case, the situation is a special one; it is not necessarily similar to the Vietnamese, Algerian, or Yemeni experience. We consider the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative until the gates of Jerusalem are reached.

[Khashanah] As a Palestinian leader, how would you analyze the strategic significance of the uprising in the Palestinian national struggle and the region in general?

[Mustafa] It might be premature to give firm judgments, since it is the dialectic of the battle which will be capable of determining the future approach. I believe the uprising has expedited the interim objective, that is, the right to self-determination, to return and establish an independent state. This places serious and exceptional responsibilities on the shoulders of us, the PLO leadership. Predicting the prospects of this uprising depends on two main things: first, the political maintenance of the significance of the uprising, which represents a deep political essence, that is, to end occupation and not to exploit or waste its achievements in the belief that quick gains can be made; second, organizational administration to match up to the uprising. The measures taken by the PLO leadership regarding organizational followup via national action leaders inside give an indication that the uprising, under such political and organizational elements, can produce major results and open the door to civil disobedience and armed uprising.

[Khashanah] The religious trend seems to be playing a leading role. Is this true, especially as at its session held in Tunis the Central Council embraced three elements of this trend?

[Mustafa] Our people are not excluded from the influence of religious movements in the region. But some media circles exaggerate the size of this phenomenon. If we examine the names of martyrs and those injured or taken prisoner, we will find that it is the fighting organizations which are are playing the major role. As for the participation of the [religious] trend in the Central Council, this pleases us, since the council is a framework gathering among its ranks all political and social inclinations so long as they declare their commitment to the nationalist program.

Al-Wazir Acknowledges UK Radio Purchase

PM081205 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa Report: "Abu Jihad Confirms To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Purchased British Radio Equipment, and Israel Is Behind the Raising of the Issue"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Palestinian official has confirmed reports that in the early 1980's the PLO purchased short-wave military radio equipment from the British company Racal-Tacticom.

In a telephone contact by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT with him in Tunis, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces and Fatah Central Committee member, said that "the PLO has covered its needs by buying from various companies operating in the international market, and that is one of the companies that produce equipment of the special nature and with the advantages you describe."

Abu Jihad described the dealings with the company as being of a purely commercial nature, saying that "they knew that if we could not obtain what we needed from Racal on that occasion, we would obtain equipment with similar specifications from another company."

The Palestinian military leader accused Israel and Zionist movements of being behind the raising and discussion of this matter, with the aim of diverting attention from what is happening in the occupied territories and the barbarous Israeli practices; namely, the killing, imprisoning, and starving of the Palestinian people.

Khalil al-Wazir recalled that some of this British equipment fell into Israeli Army hands during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and said that this story is now being used for blackmail purposes following a kind of awakening in Western circles concerning Palestinian suffering in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

In reply to another question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu Jihad said: The correspondence would have been sent to Yasir 'Arafat and no one else, on the grounds that he is the only authority able to approve such a purchase.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the British prime minister's office has been quoted as saying that the British Government does not consider the PLO a "terrorist" organization. He promised to have the matter examined. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Continue Talks

LD091313 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The visit of friendship and work by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, is expected to end today. Details of the last day of this visit have been provided by our radio correspondent.

In pursuit of strengthening the comprehensive cooperation toward realizing the unity of the greater Arab Maghreb, Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, met in private.

The meeting was then expanded to include the delegations of the two countries, including Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and officer in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Hadi Khdiri, member of the Central Committee and interior minister; Larbi Belkheir, director of the Office of the Presidency; the Algerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah; and (Lemine Tharwat), commander of the (?second) military district.

On the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by Brothers Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, and [name indistinct], member of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Al-Qadhdhafi Departs Algeria

LD092126 Tripoli JANA in English 1938 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution arrived at Tripoli International Airport at noon today at the end of a visit he made to both sisterly Tunisia and Algeria.

Welcoming him at Tripoli Airport on his arrival were: Staff Major "'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud", Colonel "Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir" the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and Colonel "Mustafa al-Kharrubi" the inspector-general of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Also took part were the chiefs of the staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. On the leader's arrival, slogans were chanted hailing the great Al-Fatih revolution and its leader, asserting the determination to press ahead on the road of the immortal principles of the great Al-Fatih revolution in unity as the most urgent demand of our Arab nation's masses from the ocean to the Gulf and as vital necessity for the survival and protection of Arab existence in the face of terrorist plots and conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism.

The leader had left the state of Annaba before noon today concluding a 4-day visit he had made to sisterly Algeria.

A huge official and popular farewell was given to the leader at Annaba Airport where President Chadli Bendjedid, the secretary-general of the Algerian Liberation Front's party (FLN) and the president of the Republic, has headed the farewell ceremony.

Took part in the farewell ceremony were: "Mohammed Cherif Messaadia", the member of the Political Bureau in charge of the Permanent Secretariat, "Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi", the member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, "Hadi Khdiri", the member of the Central Committee and the minister of the interior, "Larbi Belkheir", the member of the Central Committee and the director of the President's Office, a number of Army commanders, officers of the Algerian Armed Forces, the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to sisterly Algeria and the Algerian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Following the playing of "Allahu Akbar" and the Algerian national anthems, the leader accompanied by President Bendjedid inspected the guard of honour which had lined up to greet them.

On ascending the steps of the aeroplane, President Bendjedid embraced the leader warmly.

Since early this morning, popular masses gathered in the squares and the streets of Annaba to bid the leader farewell.

Masses that rallied around the residence of the leader and all the way to the airport were greeting and chanting slogans hailing both the great Al-Fatih revolution and the November revolution affirming the depth of the fraternal relations that bind the Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria and demanded the speedy establishment of both countries' unity.

Egypt

Full Diplomatic Relations Restored With PDRY

NC091821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the PDRY have agreed to restore full diplomatic relations, effective Tuesday, 9 February 1988.

A statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this evening said: Based on the joint desire of the governments of the PDRY and the Arab Republic of Egypt; confirming the depth of historic ties between the Yemeni and Egyptian peoples; abiding by the causes and destiny of the peoples of our Arab nation; realizing the need to mobilize all Arab resources and capabilities to confront the challenges facing the peoples of our Arab nation; and desiring to achieve Arab solidarity and utilize all resources and efforts to serve the Arab nation's interests, goals, and aspirations for liberation, progress, and peace; agreement has been reached to restore full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It should be recalled that the PDRY is the 11th Arab state to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt in the wake of the Amman summit on 8 November.

Commenting on the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the PDRY, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that it will give greater effectiveness and dynamism to joint Arab action. It will enhance the comprehensive Arab commitment to work for the establishment of peace, the defense of the national right, and the building of a better Arab future.

Further on Restoration

NC091722 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 9 (AFP)—South Yemen, the Arab world's only Marxist state, Tuesday restored diplomatic ties with Egypt that were broken off in 1979 to protest the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Foreign Ministry announced here.

South Yemen became the 11th Arab state to renew ties with Egypt following an Arab League summit last November in Amman that authorized individual members to take such steps.

'Source' Denies Meeting With Israel, Jordan

NC092123 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—An official Egyptian source has denied the possibility of holding a meeting between the Egyptian, Israeli, and Jordanian foreign ministers in order to discuss developments in the Middle East issue.

The source asserted that the report, which the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT published to this effect, is completely baseless.

Mubarak Insists Talks in U.S. Were 'General'

PM100849 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 5 Feb 88 pp 23, 24

[Raghidah Dirgham report: "Mubarak to AL-HAWADITH: We Agreed on Principle of Finding Solution To Activate Issue"]

[Excerpt] Washington—Last Friday, after he had concluded his visit to Washington and his meetings with Arab and African ambassadors, AL-HAWADITH conducted a brief interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as he was crossing the reception hall at the luxury Willard Hotel surrounded by security men on his way to his suite:

AL-HAWADITH: Have you agreed with the Americans on the points that special envoy Philip Habib conveyed to the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn?

President Mubarak: We have agreed on the principle of finding a solution in order to activate the issue. This is the foundation. As for details, right now they are "unavailable."

AL-HAWADITH: Is it clear why the Americans dispatched Philip Habib while your excellency is in Washington, without your knowing what is being discussed?

President Mubarak: Agreement on the basic points has been reached.

AL-HAWADITH: And what are they?

President Mubarak: A solution to the problem, an international conference, and the form that the final solution will assume. Philip Habib will discuss these points with King Husayn. I will personally meet with King Husayn in Paris to discuss this issue.

AL-HAWADITH: And have you agreed with the Americans on the points?

President Mubarak: We talked generally.

AL-HAWADITH: And does your excellency agree on what Habib is carrying with him.

President Mubarak: I do not know what he is "carrying."

AL-HAWADITH: And is that comprehensible?

President Mubarak: Yes, by God: "We shall see what he has to discuss."

AL-HAWADITH: Is it comprehensible for you to spend 3 days in Washington without the Americans' briefing you on what Habib is carrying with him to King Husayn?

President Mubarak: We are discussing major points and a solution in general. They will explore and probe King Husayn's opinion and response, as well as his ideas regarding a solution. We are seeking to activate the issue by any means.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Palestinians?

President Mubarak: What other problem than the Palestinian problem would I talk about?

AL-HAWADITH: I mean the Palestinians on the inside, and I also mean the PLO's role.

President Mubarak: The matter of the PLO "et cetera," will be arranged between the PLO and King Husayn; the details are an internal problem between us. The important thing, however, is to activate the issue. [Mubarak ends]

A prominent White House official who is an expert on the Arab-Israeli file talked to AL-HAWADITH on condition that his name is not disclosed. He said that Philip Habib carried with him last Saturday "ideas that emerged during talks with the Egyptians." But these are not "joint U.S.-Egyptian ideas," the official stated, stressing that the Egyptian side knew what Habib was conveying to King Husayn.

The official added that "President Mubarak has not presented specific or particular views. Everyone now is at a stage of exchanging views, but President Mubarak has contributed substantially to reactivating the process and interest in it. Yet despite his effective contribution, the Egyptian president will not play the role of a mediator." [passage omitted]

Mubarak Rejected Shamir Request for Meeting

PM101145 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Feb 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Mubarak Refuses To Meet Shamir; United States Will Not Write Off Debts"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. Administration has given President Husni Mubarak new proposals to be conveyed to the region's leaders in order to impart new impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. The aim of the new proposals is actually to kill the idea of an international conference and bring about direct negotiations with Israel.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration has rejected Egyptian requests for cancellation of some of the military debts owed by Egypt. These requests were submitted to the U.S. Administration by President Mubarak. The U.S. Administration's reply was that discussion of this matter in detail should be postponed until the arrival of Egyptian economic and military officials in the United States for talks with U.S. officials on the matter at some future stage. [Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister] Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and [Planning Minister] Dr Kamal al-Janzuri are expected to visit the United States in the coming weeks to begin a new round of talks on the matter.

AL-SHA'B has learned that Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan requesting a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during the latter's visit to the United States. The United States held the necessary contacts with the Egyptian president while he was still in Europe before heading for the United States, but he resolutely refused to meet with Shamir. To avoid embarrassment to the U.S. Administration, Secretary of State George Shultz contacted Yitzhaq Shamir to inform him of this development.

In his message to Reagan, the Israeli prime minister said that such a meeting, if it were to take place, would have a great effect on the peace process in the Middle East, and that he had some new proposals which he wished to discuss personally with President Mubarak. During his recent talks with the U.S. Administration, Shamir's top aide Rubenstein urged the United States to intercede with Egypt and Jordan and urge them to hold direct negotiations with Israel.

Al-Sharif on Mubarak's Cabinet Meeting Remarks

NC091155 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] This morning, the Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by President Husni Mubarak to review the political and economic aspects of Mubarak's latest tour of several European countries, the United States, Morocco, and Turkey. Information Minister Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif made the following statement:

[Begin recording] President Mubarak met with the cabinet ministers today to brief them on the results of his tour of five European countries, the United States, fraternal Morocco, and Turkey. The president stated that Egypt had launched its initiative in order to stimulate discussion of the Palestinian issue through new ideas that may lead to active political movement. Egypt also sought to ensure that no more opportunities are lost in connection with the Palestinian cause, as has been the case since the UN partition decision of 1948 resulted in the issue becoming one of refugees. The president explained that the initiative is an expression of Egypt's desire to exploit the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The president said that it is essential to respond to the Palestinian people's uprising, not by condemnation and denunciation, but by turning it into a stand and a movement, giving it political momentum so that it may have its full effect. Egypt believes that the peace process must be constantly urged forward; this view stems from Egypt's pan-Arab and national commitment toward the Palestinian people.

Mubarak pointed out that FRG Chancellor Kohl had responded positively, noting his role in raising this issue with the EC. He also referred to the understanding the British prime minister had shown, the positive stand by French President Mitterrand, and the understanding shown by the Italian, Greek, and Turkish prime ministers.

Mubarak said that the open discussions with the U.S. President, Congress, and the Senate had demonstrated a conviction that Egypt is presenting the matter realistically, clearly, and in a credible manner. Mubarak stressed the need for prompt and active moves toward convening an international conference and pointed out that it is important for the United States to play its part, together with the other parties concerned in the region.

Mubarak stressed Egypt's views on the importance of halting all forms of violence in the occupied land for 6 months, stopping the building of settlements, and respecting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He emphasized the need to have the international community and its institutions participate in safeguarding the security of the Palestinian people in the occupied land, paving the way for an international conference, giving the Palestinian people hope, and responding to their uprising.

Mubarak elaborated on the U.S. moves following his visit to the United States, represented by Philip Habib's visit to the region, his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, and Murphy's trips to Damascus and Cairo. Mubarak said that Egypt has opened the door to the issue. It has sounded the alarm resulting in the international community becoming active and prepared for Arab and Palestinian efforts to serve the Palestinian people and their uprising in the occupied land. There is now a belief in the need for active efforts to start the peace process with a more positive approach, he said.

With regard to economic matters, Mubarak said that Egypt had discussed economic relations with the United States and the European countries. Military debts, the U.S. aid program, and the views of the IMF and the World Bank were reviewed, he stated. Mubarak noted that he had met with the IMF executive director and chairman. Mubarak stressed that Egypt will only accept measures consistent with its economic reform plan and in keeping with Egyptian society's potential and ability.

Regarding bilateral relations between Egypt and the European countries, Mubarak referred to the agreements that were concluded and the response shown to Egypt's economic views and promotion of bilateral relations. He also spoke about the expected visit to Egypt by Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti.

On his visit to Morocco, Mubarak noted that his talks with His Majesty King Hassan II were characterized by genuine Arab fraternity and a thorough review of all Arab issues. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to King Hassan and the Moroccan people for the hospitality accorded him. [end recording]

Al-Baz on Peace Process, U.S. Initiative

NC092034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the U.S. and European response to President Husni Mubarak's peace initiative was, to a large extent, positive. He added that President Reagan and a number of his aides, including Secretary of State George Shultz, have spoken positively about the initiative.

Dr al-Baz also said that Mubarak's initiative has received a similar response from European and other countries, as well as from Israel, where half of the politicians welcomes the initiative while the other half, which rejects peace, opposes it, as do some Arabs.

Dr al-Baz noted in a television interview that the United States has accepted the basic proposals and premises of the initiative. He referred, in this respect, to Washington's declaration that it will present some ideas to the concerned parties to prepare for the talks. He added: This is now called the U.S. initiative, although it has not yet crystallized.

Dr al-Baz also said that we are fully convinced the international conference for peace is the only approach acceptable to all concerned parties and half of the Israelis; this is a positive sign that we must maintain. Al-Baz stressed the need for the United States to shoulder its responsibilities and play an active role in the peace process. He noted that it is imperative not to concentrate too much on the transitional stage because this will lead to an imbalance between that and the final stage.

Dr al-Baz added that the best way to keep the momentum is to always maintain two factors at the same time. The first is to ensure that the Palestinians will never give in to the occupation or accept its continuation, and the second is to make sure that the Arab parties concerned, including the Palestinian people, are always ready to sit at the negotiating table to solve the issue. He noted that all the Arabs attending the Amman summit have agreed to the principle of peace and to negotiations within the framework of an international peace conference. He added that Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO are eager to convene the international conference, which is also favored by the African, nonaligned, and Eastern-bloc countries.

'No Substance' in U.S. Mideast Initiative

JN100837 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Of No Substance"]

[Text] The Egyptian initiative, which enjoys Arab and Gulf backing, was supported in the various countries President Mubarak visited during his recent tour. Indeed, there was clear enthusiasm for it among many of the ruling circles in these countries. That in itself not only strengthens its importance, but also constitutes a new turning point in the relations among the powers in the region and in the international efforts being made to bring about a settlement. That is because the initiative represents both an Arab and a world view of how to place the issue along the correct course.

However, other "ideas" that ultimately seek autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied territory fall short of the Egyptian initiatve and the aspirations it represents both in the region and outside it. Indeed, such ideas appear to be totally different from a sound radical spirit for tackling an issue that has preoccupied the world for 40 years. The important events connected with that issue have demonstrated that its essence must be addressed with wisdom, courage, and through collective efforts that are channeled into the same direction so that the world will be spared its past woes—the effects of which were not confined to the region.

The attempt to move the issue around autonomy will not merely be a lost and superficial effort but will have no substance. Such a formula is not only rejected, but even to talk about it has become ridiculous because such talk gives the impression of not being serious. It raises anew the problem of credibility in tackling vital issues that have world repercussions. Indeed, it arouses despair in those who have legitimate rights and drives them toward further escalation. It's like pouring oil over a fire.

There is no fruitful result in reopening such a file that was closed some time ago, unless it is meant to produce a facade for a way out of the elections dilemma, particularly in the United States this year. It is merely for local consumption. Regrettably, it totally conflicts with the real facts, with political commitments, and with the discharge of responsibility. It also lacks a spirit of wisdom, principles, and political shrewdness.

The Egyptian initiative has, with Arab and world support, cleared the way for positive and effective movement toward the desired peace. However, at this time we find that some people are still trying to avoid facing the facts of the issue by imparting novelty and seriousness to a worn out formula without considering what could result from such stalling: dire consquences and terrible complications. Will they open their eyes?

Murphy Departs Cairo for Tel Aviv 9 Feb

NC091210 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy left Cairo this afternoon for Tel Aviv, following a visit of several hours during which he met with President Mubarak. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a 30-minute meeting with Murphy at the airport Sheraton Hotel. They reviewed developments in the Middle East in light of the efforts being made to boost the peace process.

U.S. Missile System Talks 'Mere Buffoonery'

NC092140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2108 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—A reliable Egyptian source today denied a report published by the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV yesterday that stated the U.S. Administration and Egypt are currently conducting negotiations pertaining to the deployment of a missile system on Egyptian territory that would provide a nuclear umbrella defending U.S. allies against any possible Soviet attack. The source described the MA'ARIV report as mere buffoonery.

Abu Ghazalah Cited on Gulf War, Other Issues

PM091019 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Feb 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: Region Cannot Bear Khomeyni's Fanaticism, and We Will Not Allow Iraq To Collapse"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has declared that the current situation on the Iraqi front is very assuring, especially as Iran is currently facing many difficulties in gathering new military forces for the purpose of launching a major offensive against Iraq; thus, it has been forced to recruit women. In statements the evening before last, the Egyptian defense minister stressed that Khomeyni is dreaming of capturing Basra in order to cause internal deterioration within Iraq, followed by deterioration in most of the Gulf states in order to establish a Persian state; because of this Egypt will not allow the Iraqi front to collapse.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah pointed out that Khomeyni is a fanatic dreaming of controlling the Gulf states and the region, which cannot bear any new fanaticism, especially as we are already suffering from Jewish fanaticism in the form of Israel. There are many ways and methods whereby Egypt can play a role in assisting the Gulf states without dispatching Egyptian forces, since these states

have their own forces and military resources capable of deterring any Iranian threats. I do not expect a major deterioration on the Iraqi front leading to foreign military intervention.

The Egyptian defense minister said that Egypt is continuing to build and modernize its Armed Forces so that it will be a deterrent capable of protecting both Egyptian and Arab national security. Egypt would only enter into a new war if the Nile waters are threatened, since any threat to the Nile would be a threat to Egypt. We will not allow that to happen because it is a matter of life or death to us. This must be understood by those thinking of threatening the Nile sources.

About Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah pointed out: We have not recorded any Israeli nuclear explosion in the Negev desert. It is untrue that Israel is in possession of about 200 atom bombs. In the Armed Forces there are training programs for dealing with an all-out destructive war, and we have military battalions assigned to deal with such weapons. We have the capability to neutralize nuclear weapons.

The Egyptian defense minister indicated that Egyptian military debts owed to the United States total $4.55 billion on military loans Egypt obtained in 1979 and 1980, and that waiving part of these debts would require a decision from the U.S. Congress. We are striving to persuade them to reduce the interest rate first and then reschedule debts. Next year we will begin to produce the first Egyptian tank. We will also produce a modern U.S. tank (M-1) costing 40 percent less than its present production cost inside the United States.

He said that the Armed Forces are currently preparing to publish the official documents on the 1967 war, as more than 20 years have elapsed since that war began. This is in accordance with the Egyptian military rule that military documents should be published after the passage of 20 years; this is because most written material and reports published on this war are not precise.

Al-Sayyid Notes 'Readiness' To Arm Kuwait

NC101148 Cairo MENA in English 1112 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 10 (MENA)—Egyptian Minister of State for Military Production Jamal al-Sayyid expressed his country's readiness to supply Kuwait with its needs of military equipment especially as Egypt's military production exceeds its Armed Forces requirements.

In interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper, Al-Sayyid said that Egypt produces weaponery with the aim of promoting Arab security and not for commercial purposes.

He added that Egypt was studying military developments in the Gulf to assess the suitable weapons.

He added that the first step towards manufacturing the M1 tank has been taken adding that 70 per cent of radar systems used in Egypt is locally made.

He said the Egyptian military plants produce 400 million pounds worth of civil products.

Bahrain's Al Khalifah Concludes Visit 9 Feb

NC091620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerprt] His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, left Cairo at 1600 today for home after a 4-day official visit to Egypt. While in Cairo, the Bahraini official held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; and Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi saw the Bahraini heir apparent off at Cairo airport. Also present at the airport were a number of deputy prime ministers and ministers. The Bahraini official was accorded official farewell ceremonies. [passage omitted]

Turkish State Minister Arrives for Talks 9 Feb

NC091651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Adnan Kahveci, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs [title as received], arrived here this afternoon on an official visit to Egypt to prepare for the visit by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal on Friday.

In an arrival statement, the Turkish state minister said the talks between Egypt and Turkey will cover economic, agricultural, and tourist domains. He added that the Turkish prime minister will sign a protocol for economic cooperation between the two countries at the end of his forthcoming visit.

Further on French Friendship Delegation's Visit Received by Mubarak 9 Feb

NC091410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a delegation from the Egyptian-French Friendship Society led by Andre Pilon [name as received], head of the delegation and vice president of the French National Assembly. President Mubarak reviewed with the members of the visiting delegation the Middle East issue, as well as Egypt's efforts to achieve a just peace in the region.

In a statement after the meeting, Pilon stated that France supports Egypt's endeavors in this respect, noting that if Europe is seeking a just, comprehensive, and durable

peace in the Middle East it must endorse President Mubarak's initiative and his efforts to achieve peace. He added that President Mubarak had explained to the delegation the problems and difficulties facing the region and expressed his deep concern about developments in the Gulf war.

The head of the French delegation affirmed that Egyptian and French views on the Gulf war are similar and noted steady progress in Egyptian-French relations. He added that President Mubarak had noted during the meeting the close bilateral relations, not only on the official level but personally as well.

Meets With Sidqi

NC091938 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received the Egyptian-French Friendship Society delegation this evening. The delegation, which is currently visiting Cairo, is led by Andre Pilon [name as received], chairman of the Society and vice president of the French National Assembly.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in various spheres and developments in the Middle East within the context of the distinctive relations between Egypt and France.

Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and Pierre Hunt, French ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Joint Togolese Communique Supports 'Conference'

NC062001 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Togo have declared that the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East provides the best opportunity for reaching a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. The two countries denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' inhumane repression in the occupied Arab territories. They also denounced the expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their lands in violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In a joint communique signed this evening at the conclusion of the first session of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Togolese Committee, the Republic of Togo expressed its support for President Husni Mubarak's initiative to revitalize the Middle East peace process. The two countries affirmed their adherence to the aims and principles of the OAU. They also condemned apartheid and the disgraceful practices of the racist regime in Pretoria.

The two countries affirmed their support for the efforts aimed at preserving the independence and territorial integrity of Chad and for the application of the resolutions issued by the OAU and the United Nations on the Western Sahara.

In their joint communique, Egypt and Togo also stressed their adherence to the final statement issued by the OAU extraordinary summit conference held to discuss Africa's debt problem.

Various Ministers Arrive for Security Symposium

Qatar Represented

NC091631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani arrived here this evening on a 4-day official visit to take part in the Police Day celebrations. He will also attend the symposium on the current security issues, which will open tomorrow at the Police Academy.

In an arrival statement, the Qatari minister hoped that he would be able to exchange views during the visit on Egyptian-Qatari cooperation, particularly in the field of security. The Qatari minister was received at the airport by Interior Minister Zaki Badr. Sultan al-Kawari, Qatari charge d'affaires in Cairo; and senior Egyptian police officials.

Bahrain Sends Interior Minister

NC091604 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Bahraini Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah ibn Hamid Al Khalifah arrived in Cairo this afternoon to take part in the Police Day festivities. He will also attend the symposium on current security issues, which will open tomorrow, Wednesday, at the Police Academy.

Following his arrival, the Bahraini official noted the excellent relations between his country and Egypt and expressed hope for closer cooperation and coordination, as a result of President Husni Mubarak's recent tour of the Arab Gulf countries.

Minister Al Khalifah said national security is a top-priority issue and that Egypt's capabilities in this and other fields help to bolster stability in the region.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr met the Bahraini official at the airport.

Kuwaiti Minister Comments

NC091504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim arrived here this afternoon leading a delegation on an official visit to Egypt. While in the country, Shaykh al-Salim will participate in the symposium on security issues due to open tomorrow at the Police Academy as part of the celebrations marking Police Day.

In a statement upon his arrival, the Kuwaiti minister expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt in response to an invitation from Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr. He noted the strong relations between Egypt and Kuwait, and added that during his visit he will acquaint himself with the Egyptian police's experience and the advanced stage it has reached in both the Arab and Islamic world. The Kuwaiti minister was received at the airport by Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

Sudan's Al-Husayn Attends

NC092012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit which will last several days. The Sudanese minister will attend the celebrations marking Police Day and the symposium on current security issues which will open at the Police Academy tomorrow, Wednesday.

The Sudanese minister was received by Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

Mauritania Sends Minister

NC092215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Ould Widadi arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the symposium on current security issues, which will begin tomorrow. He is deputizing for the Mauritanian interior minister.

Moroccan Minister Arrives

NC092218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—A Moroccan delegation led by Hamid el-Khalifi el-Bukhari [name as received], inspector general at the Moroccan Interior Ministry, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days. The delegation will attend the symposium on current security issues due to begin tomorrow, Wednesday, as part of the celebrations marking police day in Egypt.

The Moroccan minister was received on his arrival by Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

Delegation To Board Palestinian Deportees' Ship

NC091601 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation comprising 66 public figures and journalists, left Cairo for Athens today to accompany the Palestinian "return" ship from Greece to Israel. The ship, which will set sail on Wednesday, will carry 130 Palestinians whom the Israeli authorities had earlier expelled from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, has stated that the "return" ship symbolizes the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and their desire to lead a dignified life there, under the banners of an independent Palestinian state led by the PLO. [passage omitted]

EC Statement on Occupied Territories Welcomed

NC091303 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Egypt today welcomed the EC statement released in Bonn yesterday condemning repressive and illegal Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories. This was declared by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. He said the statement mirrors the EC's support for President Hunsi Mubarak's initiative, which stresses the importance of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Israeli Measures, 'Blindness to Facts' Scored

NC070802 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' imposition of collective punishment in order to suppress the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that this method is the latest to come out of the occupation authorities' infernal bag, after they had already resorted to using the army, tanks, bullets, tear gas, truncheons, arrests, night raids, intimidation, curfews, and closure of schools and universities in accordance with a disreputable emergency law.

The paper asserts that the Israeli officials know full well that their reckless and hostile methods of dealing with the uprising will not succeed in imposing the will of the occupation. Otherwise, the foregoing methods would have had some results now that 2 months have passed since the uprising began. To demonstrate this point, the paper cites Israeli officials' statements declaring that they expect the uprising to continue for a long time, at least for several months. This proves that deep in their hearts they realize it is an all-out national revolution and not a transient eruption.

AL-AHRAM remarks that the current situation in the occupied territories is serious and notes that this view is supported by world public opinion, governments, various media, and the international community represented by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, who have started to deal with the situation as being "inflammable to the highest degree." The paper states that the Egyptian initiative must take the credit for producing this international perception of the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories, noting that the initiative stressed in its first clause the need to abstain from acts of violence for 6 months in order to provide an appropriate climate for diplomatic efforts. The paper notes that the Egyptian initiative evinced remarkable foresight in this respect.

The paper adds that despite Arab and international support for the Egyptian initiative and world-wide sympathy for the legitimate Palestinian struggle, Israel or some of its leaders continue to cling to illusions and false hopes that it is possible for them to control the disturbances after some time, even if this will lead to the deaths and wounding of several hundred more people on both sides.

In conclusion, the paper condemns this false logic which is based on stubbornness and a blindness to facts. It notes that such an attitude may well bring about the fall of those who adhere to it.

Libya

Afghan Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

LD091814 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is making a series of friendly visits to a number of Arab countries and is now in Libya, met yesterday with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, that country's foreign minister.

During this meeting, the Afghan foreign minister briefed the other side on all the great political, social, and economic events in the country, including the Republic of Afghanistan's stand regarding the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The foreign ministers of both countries also exchanged comprehensive views on bilateral ties and regional and international issues in a climate of complete friendship and mutual understanding.

Jallud Receives Wakil

LD091931 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1907 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning received Brother 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. [as received]

Jallud Receives PFLP Delegation 9 Feb

LD092057 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning received a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by Abu Mahir al-Yamani, member of the Political Bureau, and including Abu Nidal al-Muslimi, Sabir Muhyi-al-Din, and Taysir Qub'ah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sets Up Palestinian Unit

DW081230 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Feb 88 p 128

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Hires Palestinians"]

[Text] Libya's revolutionary leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi is setting up a new force for about $10 million, hiring 600 young members of an extremist Palestinian organization. The volunteers mostly come from refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Al-Qadhdhafi promises that all Palestinians willing to fight will be trained in Libyan training camps for the "final struggle against world Zionism" and the liberation of Palestine. However, insiders believe that he wants to put the Palestinian troops into action in Chad.

Al-Qadhdhafi Talks With Ghana's Rawlings

LD092020 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA)—Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of Ghana's Provisional National Defense Council and head of state, had a telephone conversation with the brother leader of the revolution this evening.

Lebanon's Hawi Arrives for Visit 9 Feb

LD092053 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA)—George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Jallud Meets Socialist, Sudanese Officials

LD090013 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning Dr. "Nasr al-Sa'id" the secretary-general of the Islamic Socialist Party and "Mukhtar 'Eid" the secretary-general of the Farm Workers Party in sisterly Sudan and their accompanying delegations.

Sudan

Minister Says Dialogue With Garang 'Welcomed'

JN091552 Khartoum Suna in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Feb (SUNA)—Minister of Presidential Affairs Salah 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalafah has affirmed that there is no government decision to halt negotiations with Garang's movement. In a statement to the press here today, Tuesday, he said nothing, not even the occupation of the city of Kapoeta, will prevent these negotiations, adding that any such negotiations will be welcomed if they are proposed by Garang.

The newspaper AL-SIYASAH issued here on 7 February, Sunday, quotes Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of state for culture and information, as saying that the prime minister had officially decided to halt dialogue with the rebel movement because it continues its military operations and occupies cities, a fact that does not prepare an appropriate climate for dialogue and peace. [passage indistinct]

Government Soldiers 'Repulsed' to Juba 8 Feb

EA091630 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpts] SPLA forces of Bright Star campaign composed of units of central south Sudan zonal command under the overall command of Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, yesterday, 8 February 1988, effectively repulsed enemy futile attempts to advance from Juba to Torit and from there to Kapoeta. SPLA forces engaged the enemy at Bilinyang 10 km from Juba. The enemy was repulsed back into Juba town in disarray despite their use of heavy artillery, including BM-24 [expansion unknown] rocket launchers recently acquired from an Arab country.

The enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and military equipment. Thirty-six enemy soldiers were left behind on the battlefield. Pursuit and exploitation [as heard] followed up to the river bank.

The two SPLA task forces that caused this, yet another devastating victory, were commanded by Captain (Abendego Ajang Anyit), Captain (Deng Kot Gut), and Captain Alier Byer Akol. [passage omitted]

Thirty-six dead bodies were found in the battlefield left behind by the enemy. Many have been wounded. Search is still continuing. Documents captured reveal that the enemy force was commanded by Major Adil Muhammad Adam from Fashir. His body is not found, and is believed to have fled during the fighting leaving behind his soldiers. [passage omitted]

All enemy soldiers were black and mainly from western Sudan. Destination of this force was Torit, but were given extra night duty to clear Bilinyang and (Mogri) and after that they proceed to Torit.

(Al-Sayyid Muhammad Ahmad), who later died of wounds, confirmed that the SPLA shot down [a] MiG-23 on 4 February 1988 and [that it] fell east of Juba airport. [passage omitted]

In a related development, the official spokesman of the SPLA warned foreign nationals to evacuate from Juba and Torit, as these cities are now besieged by the SPLA. All aircraft are again warned to keep off from all airspace in the war zone 1.

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Saqiyat Memorial Ceremony

LD090956 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2053 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf memorial festivities on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] Brothers, presidents, and sons of the Arab people in Tunisia and Algeria, we stand in humility and awe at this moment before the martyrs of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf who inscribed with their blood the unity of the Arab people and the Arab homeland. We pray for the souls of the martyrs of the immortal Algerian revolution and the martyrs of the Tunisian Arab people from Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf to Bizerte.

Brothers, Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf is not a witness or indication of the unity of the Arab people and homeland, but a duty dictated by the unity of the Arab people and homeland. The unity of the Arab people and homeland is an axiom and does not need evidence. It is an accepted historical fact. However, what is the duty and price dictated by the unity of the Arab people and the unity of the Arab homeland? This is what was carried out by the Tunisian people, Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, and the martyrs of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf on this day a generation ago; namely, that the unity of Arabism and the Arab homeland make it a duty to pay with souls and blood. Dear blood was given generously and cheaply. What happened on 8 February 1958 was that the sons of Arab Tunisia offered their dear souls cheaply, and their pure blood generously, in defense of the requirements of the Arab nation's unity and the unity of its soil.

Thus, dear brothers, what happened at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf also happened at the village of Iseien in southern Libya—on the imaginary Libyan-Algerian borders, as we do not recognize the existence of borders between the parts of this same nation. [applause] When a group of courageous Algerian fedayeen entered Libya under the guise of a soccer team which had come to play a match on Libyan soil, we took them by the Fezzan road to the

village of Iseien, from where they carried out daring commando operations against the French colonialist presence, which believed then that it could rely on the Libyan borders and rest assured about its presence in southern Algeria and that the hands of the Aigerian revolutionaries would not reach it there. However, the French colonialists overlooked the unity of territory and the unity of the people. As a result, these commandos surprised them from behind the Libyan borders and dealt them painful blows. Their reaction was like the one against Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf as French planes raided the Libyan village of Iseien [words indistinct] exactly in the same way as the Tunisian Arab land had hosted the heroes of the Algerian revolution and turned this village into a center for their activities and their headquarters.

In the same way, French colonialism destroyed this village as a reprisal against the Tunisian Arab and Libyan Arab peoples, in order to discourage the Tunisians and Libyans form allying themselves with the fraternal Algerian people. It believed that with such measures it was going to prolong its presence or make Algeria French.

But what do we see today after 30 years? On that day France was able, with its aircraft, to destroy Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf and managed to destroy the village of Iseien, but it was never able to destroy the single future of the single nation. It was not able to destroy the Algerian revolution nor was it able to destroy the Arab will in Algeria and Tunisia, which remained steadfast and resolute and determined to struggle along with the Algerian people until victory. And victory came. [applause]

However, brothers, despite the fact that all this time has passed, estimated at 30 years, since that memorable day of 8 February 1958, while we thank God that we today are marking the anniversary with our heads held high and with no French planes flying in our sky and enjoying independence, we must not delude ourselves. Nor must we forget history, which proved to us that colonialism has no time limit; that we can say that its time has gone or that it had disappeared.

Colonialism can happen at any time if the conditions and circumstance become available. The circumstances of colonialism and the return of colonialism are to be found in weakness, disarray, submission, subservience, and surrender. These are the conditions that let colonialism establish itself once again.

In this area the Punic Wars took place. Those wars were separated from each other by well over 100 years. But history looks at them as continuous rings in the chain of the European attack on North Africa. Thirty years have passed since Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf. This period is like one second in the time of the history of nations. Colonialism might recur once again. Two thousand years after the Punic Wars, Europe returned once more to this land and invaded it. Therefore, colonialism knows no time limit. We cannot say that it had gone. It has conditions and circumstances. If they become available, then it returns once more.

Even Palestine was independent. It was colonized after World War II at the time when the colonized countries gained independence. In the very recent past, April 1986, the United States and Britain, with the support of the NATO alliance, attacked your country, Libya, at a time when the world did not expect big powers like the United States and Britain—states which brag about being civilized and modern—to carry out such a barbaric and savage action. They attacked a small and secure nation while it was asleep, using 170 planes, 73 [as heard] of which were directed to attack my house and my family and killed my children. [applause]

Therefore, we cannot say that colonialism has ended, nor can we say that colonialist powers ended with the end of Nazism and fascism. Now, a new Nazism and a new fascism are rising under the leadership of the United States. We cannot say either that the Crusades are over. The Crusades are being renewed now under the leadership of the United States, which is waging against us the Tenth Crusade after the failure of the Ninth Crusade led against us by Louis IX. You know who Louis IX was. He was the one who Europe claimed would launch his crusade to open the road between Europe and Jerusalem, because the Christians could not reach Jerusalem. Instead of going to Jerusalem, this crusade headed for Egypt and attacked Al-Mansurah. This saint, this clergyman, was taken prisoner in Al-Mansurah, in Egypt. After he was released, he set out on another campaign and attacked Tunisia. And Charles, who said that he was preparing a campaign to go to Jerusalem, went to Algeria instead.

Consequently, we can say that the Crusades were only a cover for a wave of Western colonialism on our countries. Neither were the Punic Wars the result of a conflict between Rome and Carthage over the sea, but rather they were a colonialist wave to dominate North Africa.

Afterwards, after the Punic Wars and after the Crusades, what happened? France, in the 19th century, went once again to Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, and Lebanon. Italy went to Libya and Somalia. Britain went to Egypt, Sudan, and Yemen. We were confronted with successive waves of Western colonialism. If we triumphed over one of these waves and relaxed, we were surprised by another. We are now expecting another wave of colonialism. We should never be lured by Western propaganda which wrongly and deceitfully claims that this is the era of civilization, the era of peace and democracy. The states which claim to be democratic are the most dictatorial and ferocious states toward their citizens. Britain, for example, uses horses to trample on its citizens and sprays them with water cannons. Such is democracy in Britain. Is this democracy? It is dictatorship under the disguise of a sham democracy.

In the U.S. the entire people demonstrated against the war in Vietnam, and the government forced the U.S. youth to fight the Vietnamese, and to fight a people in Asia with whom they have nothing to do. Americans demonstrated against the attack on Libya, and the peoples of Europe demonstrated against the attack on Libya; yet the governments of Europe and the U.S. Government approved the military attack on Libya.

If it is an era of civilization, peace, and democracy, who could have imagined that 170 planes would raid a small and peaceful country and that 33 planes could be used to attack a house sheltering a family and infants. This is the U.S. civilization and the cowboys' civilization. Those enemies never leave you alone, be it at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, Tripoli, Iseien, or anywhere else.

From this point, the issue of our unity in this place, the issue of our unity tomorrow, God willing, and the issue of this alliance of ours is not an emotional issue. It is not because Zine Abedine is my brother or blood brother and Chadli Bendjedid is my brother, my blood brother. It is not just this. [applause] Our unity is not because we are Arabs and one family who became scattered and torn into pieces whose reunion, which is much overdue, should take place. Our unity, brothers, is an inevitable necessity. Failing that, we will once again be victims. Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf will be repeated once again. The massacres of Algeria, whose victims were 1.5 million martyrs, will be repeated. From where do these 1.5 million martyrs come? There must be a large number of columns and martyrs of the Algerian National Army which fought against France. Does it rest on 1.5 million martyrs? No. There are other columns of martyrs: children, women, elderly, innocent people who have been hung, executed, banished, dragged in the streets, murdered, burned to death.

Yesterday, four Palestinians were buried alive. Is this civilization? Is this civilization? The Zionist state, which was created by Britain and today is supported by the United States with all its might, the sign of civilization, yesterday buried four Palestinian compatriots alive.

Is this the civilization of the West? Is this the civilization of their forward base—the so-called Israel? Who would believe that at the end of the 20th century these crimes could be committed without the world moving one finger. Yesterday at Salim Village they buried four Palestinians alive. They buried them alive. At the same time when these Israeli criminal acts are condemned, the United States uses the veto in favor of the Israelis.

The United States, brothers; in the past, if the church led the crusader wars, and if the allies headed by Britain led neocolonialism, then today the United States is heading the hostile campaign against you, the hateful campaign, the racist campaign, the new crusader campaign. The United States and the West, I am not talking about their people, and their new generations who are standing alongside us, who are supporting us and who are fighting for peace really and for democracy, but the forces and the exploitationist, imperialist, racist circles which are ruling today in the United States and in the West, must not be trusted. They are hateful circles. They hate Islam, and they want to obliterate Islam from the face of the earth. They hate Arabism, and they want to destroy this nation. The United States, along with the West, has decided that the Arabs must not rise again. It has cast a veto against the future of the Arab nation.

If an atomic reactor was built in this place to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes, the United States would destroy it, and Israel would destroy it under the order of the United States. Libyan students were expelled from the United States and from the colleges where nuclear and space research were taught. They said that the Arabs must not study space science so that they would not know it and go to outer space like us. They must not learn about the atom, so that they will not use it as a weapon. Did we attack the United States, brothers? Did we attack Britain? Did we attack France? Who led the Punic Wars?

Did we go to Europe, yesterday? Europe was the one who came to our land. Rome was the one who came to Carthage and destroyed it. If the Arab leader Hannibal went to Rome, it was in defense of Carthage and not in order to invade Rome. Neocolonialism; when France came here, did you go to France? Did the Tunisians, the Algerians, go to France and attack it with stones, catapults, or bombs? It was France who came right up to your homes. Here are houses which have been destroyed by French planes in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf village. Where did the planes come from? They came from Europe, from across the sea. This is the injustice, this is the tyranny, and this is the expansion.

These people are still in power; the people who are ruling today in the Western circles are not going to recognize the fact that Algeria is Arab. They considered it an integral part of France. Libya—in 1945 or right up to the end of World War II, Italy had been insisting that Libya was the fourth seashore of Rome. And the Italians in recent history came and said: We have regained Rome's possessions which we had lost in the days of the Romans. Imagine. This means that they have completed a colonialist ring in the chain after 2,000 years. They came to Libya and said: Now we have regained the Roman possessions which we had lost in North Africa.

When they came to Syria, General Allenby came and trampled on Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi's grave with his shoes and said: We have returned, O Salah al-Din. It meant that the Crusades returned once more in modern times. The United States is leading this campaign today. It has raised all the Western banners which had fallen. Yes, the French colonialist banner over Algeria had fallen under the feet of the Algerian mujahidin [applause], and the banners of France had also fallen under the feet of the Tunisian mujahidin. But, brothers,

the United States today is picking up these flags which had fallen under your feet, and it wants to fly them once again and advance with them once again in a hateful crusader campaign.

We, the popular masses, we who will be victims like we were victims in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, in Iseien, and at Ben Achour street in Tripoli and in Benghazi, and now in Palestine and in every place of this homeland which had been made a target by colonialism, we the popular masses who will be victims of a new aggression, must not be deceived or delude ourselves. We must not say that we have become independent. Our independence is still threatened by storms as long as Libya is one state and Tunisia is one state, Kuwait is one state, and Algeria is one state. [applause]

Brothers, in this age, nations which are not angels or devils but human beings like us have begun to arm outer space and control it. They control solar energy and atomic energy and have made the laser. They want to dominate the earth. Those who did all these things are not demons, devils, satans or angels; they are human beings like you. If you are not like them, you will be become their slaves. In this age, Europe has sensed it. All of Europe has sensed its own weakness if it does not begin to unite. Europe, which is composed of numerous nations and nationalities, feels that it is weak unless it becomes united, and this includes Italy, France, Britain, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries and low countries.

The Soviet Union, which combines 15 states in one state, found that it is weak unless it unites Eastern Europe with the socialist camp in the Warsaw Pact and Comecon. The West, in addition to the European bloc, which after economic unity is now proceeding in the direction of political unity, is the NATO alliance which includes all the forces of the West. One-quarter of the world's population is in China. They made the H-bomb. The other one-quarter is divided between India and some others. Who is left out? The Arab countries, the African countries, the Latin American countries. Why? In order to be a breathing space in the struggle of the big powers, in order to remain spheres of influence. They had decided that Africa should become France's plantation and Latin America should become the United States' plantation. This is how they reached agreement. This is not publicized in newspapers or on radios. What is announced is falshood and lies to still further dupe us, the nations who suffered from their colonialism. This is done in order to keep us deceived, so that we can be colonized once again.

Arab unity, brothers, is a necessity for survival. It is not an emotional demand. Our emotion has died. We are not talking about emotions today. We are talking about survival. We still have the survival instinct. If we want as a race, and as a nation, to survive between the ocean and the Gulf, then the only way is to become one state and one power. Western Europe has the NATO alliance as its military shield, the EEC is its economic content.

The socialist camp: the Warsaw Pact is its military shield. The Comecon is its economic content. The doctrine of socialism is the economy. The doctrine of capitalism is the Western camp's socioeconomy.

We are compelled [to unite] if we want to survive. But if we do not want to survive, we should bury ourselves alive, like the brothers in [word indistinct], because to be under the ground is better than being on top of it. If we want to remain alive, then we must create a shield to protect us and an economic content to nurture us.

Why did they create Tunisia; why did they create Libya; why did they create Algeria; and why did they create Syria? Why? They did so in order to keep this nation paralyzed and incapable of bringing about unity of the water and unity of the food; incapable of unifying the manpower; and incapable of even unifying their own thoughts. Why do they want us to be paralyzed now? In order that they themselves can work in earnest. But as for us, we must remain paralyzed.

This one is Tunisian and not a Libyan. Where did the word Tunisian come from? It came from a town called Tunis, but the rest are Arabs. Where did the word Libyan come from? All of North Africa had been called Libya, but we only heard of this in 1912. We are not Libyans, if you think we are Libyans. We are not Libyans, we are Arabs. Libya, we do not know where it came from. All of Africa had possibly been called Libya.

Algeria is named after a town, Algiers. Who created such a frame and called it Algeria? Colonialism. Who created Morocco? There is no country called Morocco. There are Fes, Meknes, Marrakech. Even nowadays in foreign languages it is called Marrakech, Morocco: They never say Al-Maghreb [Arabic for Morocco].

This is how we were. Masr? [Arabic for Egypt]. What does it mean? It only means Cairo. We know Cairo and Alexandria. You used to go through Libya, or what is called Libya now, without passports. You used to go to pilgrimage without a passport. When the Western colonization came in and left after having granted us our independence, it gave us a false independence. It handed us to the agents, to the representatives of colonialism. It told them to create passports, create borders and fight for them, prevent the Tunisian from going to Libya, prevent the Algerian from going to Morocco, prevent the Egyptian from going to Libya, prevent the Sudanese and the Egyptian from meeting, in order to keep this nation paralyzed.

Brothers, we have to wake up, we are in danger. We are in fact celebrating today that Tunisia is an independent country, and that Algeria, thank God, after all its suffering, is an independent country, and so is Libya. This is true, but we cannot guarantee whether we will stay

independent in the future or not. We might become subjugated, because this world does not admit truth. It only forces people to recognize its existence by force, not by truth.

Does not Palestine have a right? Are the Palestinian people not the people of Palestine? This is the truth. Do they recognize it? No, they do not. Who is staying in Palestine? He who is stronger, and capable of burying the Palestinians alive. This is the one who is staying. The one who possesses the U.S. Phantom aircraft is the one who is staying. Do not say it is true that the people have the right to self-determination. This is obvious, but who is applying it? The Palestinian people will not have the right to self-determination if it does not impose it by force. No one else will do it in his place.

The world, which is deceiving you by telling you that it is civilized, is a savage, barbarous, backward, and a base world which caused catastrophes for humanity. It led World War I, World War II, the Crusades, and the Phoenician wars, and is still leading new wars to exterminate mankind. Who killed tens of millions of people in the past wars? It is this world which is claiming civilization, this backward world, which is dominated not by peoples, but always by plunderer, exploiter, racist, and malicious forces.

The West does not recognize Muhammad as prophet. You must understand that. We recognize Jesus Christ as prophet, and we say peace be upon him and he is a prophet of Allah. The West does not recognize the prophetic mission of Muhammad at all. They say Muhammad is a liar and a charlatan and not a prophet, and consequently his books must be burned and his followers be killed. What do Westerners say about the Muslims? They say the Muslims are savage barbarians, rancorous toward the church, rancorous toward the Bible, rancorous towards Christ and toward the Virgin Mary, and if they entered Europe they would destroy it. What do they say about Arabs? They say the Arabs are a savage, barbarian race hostile to civilization and if they entered Europe they would destroy it, and consequently there should be no revival for the Arabs or for Islam. This is being taught daily to their children, young and old. This is out of experience.

I have suffered bitter experiences. I had discussions with them, organized seminars in Europe, brought Europeans to talk with them, and I have fought with them. I have 20 years of revolution in the open and 10 years of revolution underground. It is a rich experience and we should stop and consider what can be learned from it. I cannot be deceived, because I know what the West is. I know that in the West dictatorships are erected which have no consideration for democracy whatsoever, an iron dictatorship that does not allow the people to express what they want. The European peoples do not want to fight in Palestine or in Libya, nor do the French people want to fight in Algeria or in Tunisia. However, the circles which permanently control these peoples according to the governmental theory, the theory of oppression and exploitation, are extremely rancorous and are leading a rancorous war against you. They hate the East, they hate Arabs, they hate Islam, and they will never hesitate to destroy you if they find any weakness in you or any loophole in you. They will give no consideration to [word indistinct] or honor, and the Jewry and Christianity will not be pleased with you until you follow their creed.

They can never be pleased with you. You can capitulate and recognize Israel, tell them we accept them and really most welcome them; however, this will be to no avail. Jewry and Christianity will not be pleased with you until you follow their creed. They are persistant in manipulating us and persistant in attempting to control our destiny and exploit it for their benefit. If you capitulate, then it is up to you, but resisting it is the only way to prevent that. Resistance. Do not listen to any other talk; resistance and resistance only. Even cooperation between us and them, and mutual respect between us and them, cannot be created purely on the basis of strength; if this nation was strong and capable of harming them and of responding in double measure and had a long arm, then they would sit with us at the negotiating table and put limits on their expansionist ambitions. Then and only then would cooperation and mutual respect be created between us and them. Cooperation between a strong side and a weak side, between a needy man and a rich, cannot be created. This is not a rule, and we will not depend on it.

How can cooperation be created between us and Europe if they are strong and we are weak? They want our Arab countries to remain a consumer market to consume and absorb what they produce. They do not want us to be an industrial power processing gas, oil, and phosphates, so that they take these products to their plants to process it and sell it to us. They want us to be a consumer market, a field for military maneuvers, and when world wars erupt, they want to lay their hands on this area so as to control the Strait of Gibraltar, the Gulf of Sidra, Bab al-Mandab, the Suez Canal, and the Strait of Hormuz. Now they intend to deny the Arabs any capability. They are fighting us in the oil, at the Jordan river, the Yarmuk River, the (Al-'Asi) River, and the (Litani) river. For your information these rivers are occupied by the Israeli forces, so the Arabs cannot make use of them. The turn will come for the Tigris and the Euphrates; they too will be occupied.

This nation is in danger. Yes, we rejoice, we celebrate, we sing and dance, but we fight. Without fighting, we do not have any future. Without fighting, do not think that independence will last. The French aircraft will come back to the village of Sidi Yusuf in the near or the far future, if there is some weakness which gives it the opportunity to return. Do not say, God grant me pardon, God is the only one, we are Muslims and we should not say this. Were we not Muslims then? Why did they not consider this? Were we not human beings even before the coming of Islam? Why did they not consider the human factor? Where was humanity, Rome's humanity,

when it destroyed Carthage, and plowed it? Where was the humanity in the Crusades? Where was Allenby's humanity when he trampled over Salahdin al-Din's tomb? Where was the United States' humanity when it attacked my home with 33 aircraft and killed babies? Where is their humanity? Do you think that they are civilized and human? They have hatred and jockeying. This is the rule of life: If God did not check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief. [Koranic verse]

You have to be rough and strong with them. This will not be possible out of rejoicing at Libya's, Tunisia's, and Algeria's independence. This will only come from unity. Immediate unity, to mass people shoulder to shoulder, possibilities, waters, grains, rain water, underground waters, sea, sun, and all the capacities which we have to compile and mass day and night before colonialism comes again.

Any other orientation would be the end, a waste of time, a deception. Any orientation apart from the immediate and serious unitary one without hesitation and fear is a betrayal of the Arab nation's future, and a betrayal of the future generations.

We paid the price here in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, because there was someone who betrayed and neglected the past, which enabled the French aircraft to reach this place. How could aircraft come from France to this village? This simple, calm, and peaceful village? Why did they not say, these are children? Brother Zine Abidine was telling me that he was present, and that the raid was on a market day when people came to sell and buy. They brought their animals, and came to shop. They were raided by the French aircraft which took advantage of this opportunity to raid and destroy them. Zine Abidine's left leg was wounded that day. He carried out the takeover of 7 November because he paid with his blood and knows what colonialism is. He knows that the battle was in Algeria and the bullet was in Ben Ali's leg in Tunisia. This means that there is only one battle. It would be devoid of meaning to say that the battle in Algeria did not concern Tunisia, or the fight in Palestine does not concern Algeria.

The Israelis are now manufacturing 4000-mile range missiles to reach Tunisia and Algeria. The Israelis are not fighting just against the Palestinians. They are are fighting against the Arab nation. This is the fight of existence, not borders. They are waiting for the day the Palestinian problem is over to have their hands free in order to attack the rest of the Arab peoples. The Palestinian trench is resisting on your behalf. Therefore, it must be supported, and all the potentials must be amassed behind the Palestinian trench, because the Palestinian trench is the front line in the defense of the Arab nation. If this line falls, the Israeli forces will advance with the support of the U.S. forces and the NATO alliance toward the Arab countries from the ocean to the Gulf. They want to establish an Israeli empire on Arab soil.

Don't listen to the talk about the peace process. It is deceit and tricking the masses. What peace process? It is a destruction process; massacres occurred after the Camp David accord which was signed by Al-Sadat. What happened after that: massacres in Lebanon; in Syria; in Palestine; in Tunisia; in Libya. The peace process enabled the Israeli planes to attack the town of Tunis and the Palestinians in Tunis. This is the peace march.

After the peace march, the NATO alliance came and attacked my house and my children. Today, the Palestinians are being buried alive, while they are alive in Palestine today. This is the peace march which is propagated by the traitors. Treason, brothers, has become a point of view. What kind of a political (?farce) and what decadence in the life of the Arab world; treason becomes a point of view. The one who recognizes Israel is welcomed in Morocco and in the Gulf. The agent of Zionism and imperialism is welcomed in the Arab countries. He ought to be slain and encircled. How can we allow in the one who made the Zionist enemy breathe a sigh of relief and who gave him an artery across the Suez Canal so that the Israelis, brothers, from Elat in the Gulf of Aqaba, could link Ashdod or Haifa; otherwise , they would have to go around the African continent in 2-3 months in order to link the north of Palestine and its (?south) and the west to the east. Now they take only hours from Aqaba across the Suez Canal to the Palestinian coast. Who gave this strategic service? This artery? It is the Egyptian regime. How can we release it? It releases the enemy and we release it? How nice. A very nice new way; the new fashion which began in the Arab world. This was imposed by decadence, the weakness of Arab will.

When the Arab nation was strong and Arab nationalism had a loud voice and the banner of Arab nationalism under the leadership of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir was powerful, no one dared to extend a hand to the Israelis. An Arab citizen was executed because he met the Israelis in Europe. Now the Arab ruler embraces the Israeli, and he is not executed. How many Arabs were sent to prison for life because they met with the Israelis even by accident? It used to be forbidden for an Arab to meet with an Israeli. The Israeli killed the Arabs and killed the Palestinians, and he is sharpening his knife to slay the rest.

Today the Arab ruler embraces the Israeli, and we encourage him and communicate with him. How nice. What sort of thing is this? This nation needs an electric shock and needs a disaster from heaven to restore its mind. [applause]

These masses which you have seen in Libya, in Tunisia, in Algeria, these young men, this new generation, is an extension of the generation of anger in Palestine. This

generation, the generation of anger, does not approve of this humbug at all. It rejects these policies part and parcel. The generation of anger today wants to destroy the borders and set up unity; establish force; confront the challenge with a challenge; liberate Palestine; and establish socialism and redistribute the wealth of the Arab homeland to the individual Arab people. [applause] There are those who are poor and those who are rich; rich and poor; a ruler and the ruled; the armed and the defenseless. Where did this rich person acquire his wealth? He acquired it from the wealth of the rest of the poor citizens. If there is a rich person, then it means that there is a poor person. If you find a rich person in a country, it means that there is a poor person to balance this. The rich person cannot become rich except from the wealth of the poor person.

Social justice must prevail. Wealth must be distributed among all the inhabitants of the Arab homeland. The oil of the Arabs is for the Arabs. Tunisia has no oil; Libya has oil, so the oil in Libya belongs to the Tunisian and to the Libyan and the Sudanese and the Yemeni. [applause]

Brothers, this is the picture of the life we live today. This is the state in which we live today. I am thinking about tomorrow so that this tragedy may not be repeated. The tragedy of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf must not be repeated. The suffering of the Algerian people must not be repeated. The Algerian people were persecuted and made homeless. We must not become like the Palestinian people once again, today.

There is no protection for Arab unity. Do not listen to any talk. You either unite or you will become like the native Americans. You have heard of the native Americans; you heard of the gypsies who are scattered all over the world. They seek to scatter you. This is a challenge. If a nation is challenging you, then you must challenge that nation. Why not? Are you cowards or without resources or without the right to live in the sun and on this earth competently? The U.S. is challenging you. You must challenge it, and you must not bow your heads in front of it. A European nation challenges you, must challenge it. We must do this even if we have to give more millions [of people] for the sake of this challenge. Even if only 1 million free Arabs remained, it would be worth it. Yes. Let us go forward and the struggle will continue. [applause]

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Depart

LD082033 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf this afternoon. They were seen off by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, and a number of officials at the Tunisian-Algerian border.

Kuwait

Interior Minister Leaves on Visit to Egypt

LD091202 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah today left Kuwait for Cairo on an official 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah told KUNA that the visit is in response to an invitation from Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr. He said that he is bearing a message from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait for his brother, President Husni Mubarak, and a message from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, for Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, as well as the Kuwaiti people's greetings to the Egyptian people.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah expressed his hope that the existing relations between the two countries will be consolidated and reaffirmed as a basis for future relations.

Deputy Premier Al-Sabah Meets Cuba's Mazola

LD091912 Kuwait KUNA in English 1649 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 9 (KUNA)—Cuban Foreign Undersecretary Giraldo Mazola had separate talks today with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahim.

An authoritiative source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that Shaykh al-Sabah and the Cuban official exchanged views on the works of the Nonaligned Movement, and Cuba's interest in the developments in the Arabian Gulf region.'

Later the Cuban undersecretary conferred with his Kuwaiti counterpart, and the talks focused on bilateral relations and the Gulf war.

The Kuwaiti foreign undersecretary hosted a lunch in honor of the Cuban official who arrived here last night from Baghdad enroute to Karachi.

Daily Views U.S. Attempts To Thwart 'Uprising'

JN091157 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 7 Feb 88 p1

[Editorial: "Those Who Stand To Benefit From the Uprising"]

[Text] Undoubtedly the uprising—the rebellion—constitutes a special phenomenon. Therefore, we should not be surprised to see several parties coming together and cooperating in order to abort it and undermine the morale of its heroes.

We have warned from the beginning against those who are trying to put forward initiatives and who are building castles in the air on the pretext that a solution is imminent and that a settlement is available, whereas the truth is exactly to the contrary.

They want to intervene in Israel's favor because they have found that the uprising is no longer a transient phenomenon, and that it is spreading, growing, and enjoying increasing support, sympathy, and assistance. Consequently, attempts to influence the uprising will not cease, because the aim is to ease the pressure on Israel and to rescue it from a crisis that is about to demolish the remains of its lies and topple all the slogans it has raised, along with all its arguments used to justify occupation, expansion, and settlement.

It is certain there are regional and international parties whose interest it is to cooperate in order to cool down the kinfolk's rebellion and to undermine their morale. The continuation of the rebellion means the entry of unexpected parties that were not taken into consideration. Therefore, instructions have been issued to Philip Habib, Richard Murphy, and other envoys to travel to the Middle East to rescue Israel. At the same time, some parties that have interests in the region began to intervene and prepare the scene to inflame the situation in adjacent areas, such as Lebanon, where the military situation between the two parts of Beirut can be sparked by a mortar shell, boobytrapped car, or the kidnapping of a foreign national whose state has relations and interests in the area, particularly with Israel. Indeed, we have already begun to see suspicious moves in Lebanon where the climate is favorable for an action that will divert attention away from the uprising and ease the pressure on Israel.

The United States is now leading an intensive diplomatic campaign in the region, and that is unusual in a season when everyone is preoccupied with the presidential elections. If the United States is sincere and truly wants to use the situation created by the uprising to find a political settlement to the conflict in the region and to end Israeli rule, it should not have exercised its veto, thus encouraging Israel to persist in its savage policy of violence. The United States cannot trade in peace while it is supporting Israel militarily and is supplying it with the weapons and gases which are being used against demonstrators in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Just as the United States has supported Israel and enabled it to occupy Arab territory, the Soviet Union has done the same. Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union are now confronting the uprising and constitute a parallel to the occupation forces. The plot is big, and its parties are numerous. What is important is that the uprising should continue, regardless of seasonal outbursts and the usual attempts to heat up the situation.

The uprising is the symbol, the glory, and the hope.

PDRY

Government Restores Diplomatic Ties With Egypt

EA091842 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The following statement was issued this evening in Aden and Cairo:

Based on the common desire of the governments of the PDRY and the Arab Republic of Egypt; in affirmation of the deep bonds and historic ties linking the Yemeni and Egyptian peoples; out of the sense of commitment to the causes and destiny of the peoples of our Arab nation; in awareness of the need to combine all Arab energy and potential in the face of the challenges, dangers, and threats to which the people of the Arab nation are being subjected; and out of their concern for Arab solidarity and the utilization of all energy and efforts to serve the interests and objectives of the Arab nation and its aspirations for liberation, progress, and peace: The two countries have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations, effective as of Tuesday, 9 February 1988.

Al-Bid Successfully Undergoes Surgery in Moscow

EA081154 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, spoke by telephone this afternoon with Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and congratulated him on the success of his surgical operation performed in Moscow. He wished him good health and recovery.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Foreign Minister's U.S. Visit

Presents Messages From King

LD092108 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has received two messages from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, current chairman of the GCC Supreme Council. The messages were conveyed by his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, when he was received by the U.S. President in the White House this morning.

The two messages from the custodian of the two holy mosques to the U.S. President come as part of the messages that his majesty, may God protect him, has addressed to the member and nonmember states of the UN Security Council based on a decision made by the GCC Supreme Council in its eighth session held in Riyadh last 26 December.

The two messages are related to a call to the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Palestinian popular uprising, to the seriousness of Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, and to the adoption of measures liable to bring about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has announced that President Reagan affirmed to his highness the foreign minister during the meeting the U.S. commitment to make a great effort to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and any resolution subsequent to it. The U.S. President also expressed his concern about activating efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by his royal highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ambassador of the Kingdom to Washington; Colin Powell, President Reagan's national security adviser; and Edward Djerejian, deputy assistant secretary of state.

Meets With Shultz

LD092256 Riyadh SPA Arabic 2216 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, 9 Feb (SPA)—Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal met today in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The meeting was attended by his royal highness Amir Bandar Bin Sultan, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States. SPA has learned that the meeting dealt with the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the GCC efforts being made to end the Iraq-Iran war in light of the two messages presented to President Reagan on these topics from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the current chairman of the GCC Supreme Council.

His royal highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal told the press after the meeting that the message on the Middle East had focused on the Palestinian uprising against the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. His royal highness said that the uprising had created a new situation that should be taken into consideration in any peace effort in the region. His royal highness added that the Palestinian people under occupation will only accept self-determination, and that the GCC demands that the Palestinians' right to self-determination be taken into consideration in any efforts or contacts concerning the Palestine problem.

His royal highness said that he had discussed with the U.S. secretary of state the U.S. efforts to find a just peace in the Middle East. His royal highness also made clear to U.S. officials the Arab attitude as expressed by the Arab League and the committee recently set up by the League as an axis for joint Arab action in following up developments in the Palestine problem. His royal highness said the message on the Iraq-Iran war fell within the context of messages from the king to the leaders of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, messages that are part of the GCC efforts

to bring about implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran war. His royal highness added that the implementation of this resolution is at the heart of the GCC efforts, and that the countries that had been contacted had the will to see the resolution implemented, and that more efforts were being exerted now at the Security Council.

Departs for Home 10 Feb

LD100800 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, left the U.S. capital, Washington, last night after a visit to the United States during which he delivered two messages from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to U.S. President Ronald Reagan. His Royal Highness also met with his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz. Talks during the meeting dealt with the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the GCC countries' efforts, and the Iran-Iraq war. His royal highness the foreign minister said that (?they had discussed) U.S. efforts to find a just peace (?in the region).

Commentary on Pilgrimage Notes 'Evil' in Iran

LD100716 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reiterated its solid affirmation that it will not allow a repetition of Iranian criminal practices during the next pilgrimage season or at any other time or place.

Evil is a characteristic of the behavior of those whose conscience and feelings have died and who have coexisted with crime. The statement of the Iranian deputy foreign minister, in which he said that Iran's pilgrims would not ask the permission of the Saudi authorities to organize free political demonstrations during the next pilgrimage season, was made on this basis.

This evil public action and foul language from the Iranian official is neither strange nor new to the Iranian regime; it is an expression of this regime's thinking, compatible with the mentality of the ruling regime in Tehran. This is a mentality full of evil, the common denominator in the behavior of all the members of the Iranian regime. In this context, the Revolutionary Guards were mobilized by Tehran's regime to carry out disturbances during last year's pilgrimage season with the goal of creating a state of chaos. This put the security of the pilgrims to God's holy house at risk for no reason other than to satisfy the deep-rooted spirit of evil in the mentality of the regime. The regime was jealous of the peace and security enjoyed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It wanted to spoil the purity of this peace. But God made the deception of the malicious people recoil on them, and the elephants of the Abraha of Iran [Christian King of southern Arabia in the middle of the 6th century A.D. who led an expedition against Mecca] broke loose and trampled each other's necks.

Today, when the deputy foreign minister of the ruling regime in Tehran makes a statement that Iran's pilgrims will repeat their disgraceful criminal action during the next pilgrimage season, he is not saying anything new. If he had said something different, he would have abandoned the psychological character that is a distinctive feature of the behavior of his ruling regime. However, the thing that the official of Tehran regime does not know—he appears to have a quite limited knowledge—is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not and will not allow the criminal practices of the Iranian regime to be repeated at any time or any place, anywhere in this homeland. This is a fact known to the Iranian regime, but he tries to ignore it in the hope that he will be able to repeat this evil and abominable public act which was and still is being denounced by the Islamic nation's leaders and people. They consider this as a shameful mark on the forehead of the Iranian regime, which has abandoned all moral values and has withdrawn deliberately from the arena of the morals, teachings, and behavior of Islam to stand naked except for its covering of shame and disgrace.

Abd al-'Aziz Chairs Council of Ministers 8 Feb

LD082359 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 Feb (SPA)—His royal highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that the Council had reviewed, as usual, at the outset of its meeting a summary of reports on the latest information on the developing political and security situation in the Arab arena, including the deteriorating situation in occupied Palestine because of the unlawful Israeli practices against the sons of the brother Palestinian people. The Council also reviewed recent security issues in the Arabian Gulf and discussed some of the stances, declarations, and ideas in this regard.

The information minister added that the Council had discussed a number of issues relating to internal affairs at various sectors and adopted the necessary measures. [passage omitted]

His royal highness the minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, or whoever deputizes for him, is to put the final signature on the agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kenyan Government on air services as stipulated in the appendix attached to the decision. The original final copy of the agreement in the accredited languages must be submitted to the Council after it is signed in order to issue the necessary decree.

The Council endorsed the report submitted by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy on the results of the proceedings of the Saudi-Iraqi joint commission's

third session held in Riyadh; this report listed the goods exchanged between the two countries in the context of customs tariffs. [passage omitted]

Chadian Executed in Jeddah for Drugs Offense

LD051331 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1106 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 5 Feb (SPA)—The death sentence was carried out today in Jeddah on Ahmad ibn Ali ibn Muhammad, a Chadian, in whose house police discovered 25,629,000 narcotics pills and 22 cases of intoxicating liquor which he had admitted smuggling in.

A communique issued by the Interior Ministry today in this respect affirms the determination of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques to fight all forms of crime with the utmost energy, and to inflict the most severe punishments on criminals in order to protect society from their evil.

The ministry urged all citizens and expatriates to intensify efforts to cooperate with the competent organs in revealing such persons so that they may be punished. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Source' Denies Military Force Sent to Libya

JN100813 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Feb (WAKH)—A responsible source at the YAR Embassy in the UAE has denied a report that has recently been published by an Arab newspaper to the effect that the YAR has sent part of its forces to Libya.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi today, quoted this source as saying that this report is baseless and that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has not asked the YAR to send troops or equipment to its Armed Forces. The source added that the YAR has never sent any of its citizens to Libya.

Mineral Cooperation Talks With Soviets Conclude

JN091920 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The official talks between our country and the Soviet Union on cooperation in the field of oil, gas, and mineral wealth were concluded at the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry today. Our country's side to the talks was led by brother Eng Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and the Soviet side by Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, minister of geology.

At the conclusion of the talks, the Soviet minister expressed his great admiration of the large progress he noted in various areas in the YAR. He also expressed his great satisfaction with the results of the talks he and his delegation held with the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry officials and his meetings with brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; and other officials. He wished the Yemeni people progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives With Message

JN081951 Baghdad INA in English 1850 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 8, INA—The first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council Mr Petur Tanchev arrived here tonight on a few days visit to Iraq.

He was received at the airport by Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf.

Mr Tanchev said he is carrying a written message to President Saddam Husayn from the Buglarian President Todor Zhivkov.

He said Bulgaria supports the ongoing efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war and bring peace to the region.

'Official' Talks Begin

JN092105 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Official talks between Iraq and Bulgaria began today. The Iraqi side was led by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, while Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council, headed Bulgaria's delegation to the talks.

The vice president reiterated the Iraqi Armed Forces readiness and ability to crush any new attempt at aggression which the Iranian enemy may try to launch. He added that it is high time for the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 598 by imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime in light of its indifference to the international will. He noted that the years of war have bolstered the unity of the Iraqi people and strengthened their resolve to continue the process of development and construction, a process that accompanies their heroic confrontation of Iranian aggression. He indicated that Iraq is witnessing a comprehensive economic and administrative renaissance led by His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president and leader.

Petur Tanchev described Iraqi-Bulgarian relations as good and developing. They are relations based on strong friendship, the foundations of which were laid by the historic meeting held in Baghdad between President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov. The first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's State Council reiterated his country's support for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war. He added: Bulgaria, which contributed to the issuance of this resolution as a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council, believes that peace is the only way to end the war. He highly valued Iraq's stand toward the peace initiatives that have been launched to end this conflict, the last of which was represented by Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 598 which reflects the international will.

The talks also focused on developments in the hostile Iranian war being waged against Iraq, the high degree of preparedness characterizing the Iraqi Armed Forces to crush any hostile Iranian attempt, developments in the Palestine question, the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied territories, current international issues, and the administrative and economic transformations taking place in the two states.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks comprised Agriculture and irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida, the under secretary of the ministry, the head of the General Federation of Peasant Cooperative Societies, the head of the First International Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the head of the vice president's office. The Bulgarian side included Lyubomir Popov, deputy foreign affairs minister; Dr Vulkov, Standing Committee member of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union; [name indistinct], under secretary of the External Economic Relations Ministry [as heard]; the deputy chairman of the Arab Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the political adviser to the head of the delegation; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

INA Director Views New French Transmission

JN012025 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—This afternoon, the INA director general ordered the initiation of a French language transmission, the third language in INA casts beamed abroad. French-speaking recipients in North Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia will benefit from the new cast. This cast is transmitted for 1 hour from 1600 local time—1300 GMT—to 1700 local time—1400 GMT.

The French cast contains 10 reports a day, which will include the activities of the Iraqi Armed Forces, official events, and Iraq's relations on the Arab and international level. INA Director General Sa'd al-Bazzaz said that this is just the first stage and will be followed by two more. On 1 April, the French cast will be increased to 2 hours and on 1 June to 3 hours. He added that the expansion of the French cast's transmission seeks to extend a good and convenient news service to INA recipients. He asserted that the first stage of transmission will be confined to carrying developments in the Iraq-Iran war, which has been continuing for more than 7 years, as well as providing a simplified news service to the news agencies of French-speaking countries. It will carry important Iraqi reports and, subsequently, reports on the Arab homeland and the world. He added that the Iraqi presence in the international news arena has become a necessity following the excellent expansion in INA and its reports in Arabic and English. INA now transmits three casts. It broadcasts in Arabic for 16 hours with an average of 300 items a day. It also transmits in English for 9 hours with an average of 50 items a day.

Moreover, INA has expanded in the international arena. It has important offices in European and Asian capitals, and its correspondents maintain widespread coverage of the Arab region. The INA director general expressed hope that the news service in French will expand to include national activities, important events in the Arab and international arenas, and detailed reports to its consumers on the aspects of the development Iraq is experiencing despite the aggressive Iranian war, which has now continued for more than 7 years.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,015

JN091858 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,015 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With help from God and with the resoluteness of the men of faith who are waging a holy war, the victorious Iraqi forces continue their heroic confrontation of the remnants of the backward Iranian regime, scoring further victories and adding eternal feats daily to the epic of defending the homeland and its principles. The following is a roundup of the activities of our troops for last night and today:

1. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector managed to kill 27 scoundrels and wound others. They also were able to destroy seven vehicles of various types and one machinegun emplacement, and to blow up six ammunition dumps.

2. Six enemy personnel were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two Khomeyniite personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One observation post and one medium machinegun were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One enemy soldier was killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the same sector.

5. Two scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris engaged the enemy troops in front of them using various weapons. They managed to achieve the following: 12 scoundrels killed, 1 tank burned and destroyed, 2 hovercraft and 1 other vehicle destroyed, 5 infantry positions destroyed, and 3 ammunition dumps blown up.

7. One infantry position was destroyed and one vehicle was damaged in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 February 1988

2 'Maritime Targets' Hit

JN092122 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2105 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Statement by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 9 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As long as the Iranian regime continues to proceed on an evil course and clings to its aggression, Iraq will continue to impose a siege on this reckless regime's oil supplies in order to destroy the sources that finance this aggression. Our brave Air Force aircraft have carried out the following two missions:

1. At 1905 [1605 GMT] today, our brave hawks carried out a successful raid against a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective hit.

2. At 2115 [1815 GMT], our brave hawks dealt an accurate and effective blow against a second very large maritime target off the Iranian coast.

After carrying out these two missions, our hawks returned to base safely and triumphantly under God's protection.

[Dated] 9 February 1988

Saddam Disbands Groups of Draftees, Reservists

JN100940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, has ordered the immediate disbandment of draftees and reservists who have served 10 years, who have not been absent during this period, and who have served 2 years or more on the front. This is the first initiative of its kind in the history of war.

The AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, which is issued by the Ministry of Defense, said today that the president's decree also includes the immediate disbandment of those who were born in 1957, the third group; as well as those who were born in 1958 and those born in other years who have served for 10 years and have not been absent during that period. [passage omitted]

Murphy Arrives on Mideast Shuttle Mission

Peres Urges Support for Plan

TA091537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived this afternoon in Israel as part of a shuttle mission in the Middle East. After his talks in Cairo with Egypt's president, Murphy said that a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict can be achieved only with the participation of all parties involved. Murphy visited Syria and Saudi Arabia prior to his arrival in Egypt.

In today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres gave details of the U.S. plan for the settlement of the Middle East conflict. According to the proposal, an international conference will be convened, to be followed by negotiations for a 3-year interim settlement. The negotiations will be limited to 7 months, after which talks for a permanent arrangement will begin even if an interim arrangement has not been achieved. Mr Peres said that the U.S. initiative should have Israel's support, even if not all its principles are ultimately accepted.

Shamir Sending 2 'Signals'

TA091822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that Israel has not yet launched political talks with the United States. In a debate held by the Likud faction in the Knesset, the prime minister said that it is not clear whether the talks will begin this evening in his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Nadav] This evening the prime minister sent two signals to the United States: On the one hand, he talked at length about friendship and shared interests, as well as about the administration's style of preferring persuasion to enforcement—in contrast with Europe, which has bared its teeth at the first opportunity. At the same time, the prime minister also sketched the framework for the talks with the United States, saying: There are matters over which we disagree.

[Shamir] It is not easy, and normal practice in the United States is to proceed quickly. That is what is known as American speed. But the Camp David accords spell out the necessity of maintaining a distance between the so-called interim arrangement and the permanent arrangement. This is a problem, and we will have to insist on our position, possibly even argue and barter. Nevertheless, this is our stand. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 9 February carries an excerpt of Shamir's address to the Likud faction in the Knesset, in which the prime minister says: "The wisdom of the Camp David accords lies in the fact that the two parties decided to defer the decision on the toughest issue, namely that of sovereignty, for a period of 5 years, during which they would test coexistence within the framework of the autonomy in order later, after those 5 years, to determine what that experience shows. If the attempt is successful, according to the accords, it would be easier to talk and reach an agreement. The agreement should be over a solution that would be acceptable to all the sides. That includes us, too. That is to say that under no circumstances and under no terms will negotiations over the permanent arrangement end in a solution that is unacceptable to Israel. That was the principle. For the negotiations to have any chance of succeeding, we said: It is necessary to proceed along that corridor of time and joint work through peaceful coexistence for the duration of the autonomy period. We therefore foresee great difficulties if anyone believes that this corridor can be dismissed or shortened."]

Peres Comments on Initiative

TA091835 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Knesset correspondent Eli Nisan on 9 February; place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres, picked up in midsentence] ...procedure and substance at one and the same time. In other words, actually an international opening for direct negotiations insofar as procedure is concerned, along with an interim arrangement and a permanent one. For if we analyze it briefly, the following picture will emerge: Husayn will never enter into negotiations over autonomy alone. He has already said as much several times. In other words, for him to enter a discussion even on autonomy, he needs two things: first, an international opening; and second, to have an idea as to the nature of the permanent arrangement.

Perhaps the United States, on the other hand, believes it is capable of softening the Israeli positions by starting out with a discussion on the substance or content even prior to the international conference. In other words, to start out with discussions on the nature of the interim and permanent arrangements. If this works, it would be wonderful and I will support this. I also favor a prior clarification of the substance of the interim and permanent arrangements even before the international conference opens. There is definitely one thing over which I am in full agreement with the United States; that the year 1988 should not be allowed to pass and that the current situation—which involves a confrontation to combat violence—cannot remain as it is.

Just as we must say no to violence, we must also say yes to policy.

[Nisan] Mr Minister, the ideas Murphy is bringing along to Israel were rejected by both the Saudis and the Syrians. Do you think that they are applicable or viable in these circumstances?

[Peres] Look, the United States is contending with a situation teeming with contrasts. I cannot be so naive as to say that one proposal exists that would eliminate all the contrasts. The kind of talent that we could use now is the ability to find a narrow path in this minefield on which we may tread our first step. I would certainly support this.

[Nisan] Sir, on another matter, the deportees ship is expected to set anchor off the Israeli coast in a few days. How do you think Israel should react to that vessel?

[Peres] The boat has never requested, never received, nor ever will obtain license to approach the Israeli coast. If it attempts to penetrate our ports illegally, with many innocent people as well as many reporters on board, and yet also with so many whose hands are stained with blood, the question is not only how Israel should react, but how Israelis should behave. I believe that Israelis should refrain from demonstrating support for an act which is illegal and for people whose hands are unclean, being smeared with the blood of innocent individuals.

Shamir Meets With Murphy

TA100555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Special U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met for over 2 hours last night with Prime Minister Shamir on the last leg of his Middle East tour. Aides to the prime minister said most of the meeting was devoted to Israeli questions about autonomy for Palestinians in the administered territories. Murphy is scheduled to have breakfast with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at this hour. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] Murphy's Middle East shuttle, which included stops in Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, culminated in a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir last night in which the American envoy shared with Shamir the impressions he has collected on prospects for moving the peace process forward. [passage omitted]

Sources in the prime minister's office said most of the talks were devoted to questions raised by Shamir about what will happen after interim negotiations on Palestinian self-rule are begun, and the stage between an interim and permanent solution. No timetable for the peace process was discussed, the sources said, but they stressed that Murphy was completely aware that Prime Minister Shamir spoke of autonomy as laid out in the Camp David Accords. This was despite earlier rumors that the American initiative calls for autonomy in the territories before the end of the year.

According to Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner, Murphy answered only part of the prime minister's questions. We hope, Pazner said, to receive the clarifications we requested after Murphy reports to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. It's clear that there are serious efforts on all sides to move the peace process forward, Pazner said, but a lot of question marks remain, and we hope in the next weeks to have a better idea of which way to advance. Recent violent unrest in the territories was not discussed by the two men at all, Pazner said. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Meets With Murphy

TA100847 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Following his meeting with Richard Murphy, Peres again welcomed the U.S. political initiative. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel heard Shim'on Peres' remarks.

[Begin Peres recording] First, I welcome the very fact that the United States has again taken the initiative in the sphere of the political negotiations which will lead to peace. I consider this a blessing.

The ideas which Mr Murphy brought are still not consolidated. They lack a number of details. As far as I am concerned, I will welcome anything. If it is possible to begin with autonomy, all the better. I am neither the father nor the mother of an international conference. If it is possible to do things without an international conference, I will be happy. I will be very glad if we find an Arab partner without an international conference. At this stage, I am not sure one exists. [end recording]

Shamir Rules Out Parts of Plan

TA100945 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. envoy Richard Murphy briefed Foreign Minister Peres on the positive reactions he received in Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to Washington's political initiative. Syria has reservations about the plan, but has not slammed the door, according to Murphy.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ruled out two components of the U.S. initiative: the international conference and the U.S. proposal that the date for the beginning of the talks on the permanent arrangements be set in advance.

Murphy reported in Jerusalem that Secretary of State George Shultz will raise the new initiative in his talks in Moscow at the end of the month. Shultz may later come to the Middle East for a round of talks.

Foreign Minister Peres said that he welcomes the U.S. initiative and its principles. Murphy is currently conferring with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Rabin Meets With Murphy

TA101150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Richard Murphy met today with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At the end of this meeting we heard Rabin's impressions of the talk.

[Begin Rabin recording] We exchanged views on the situation in the region, particularly about everything that is taking place in the territories. I received a general picture about the direction in which the United States intends to act. The very fact that the United States is showing an interest in getting a political process started is positive, but it is too early to estimate what is at stake here and what will come out of this. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 February also reports on the Rabin-Murphy meeting, adding: "During his meeting with the defense minister, Mr Murphy received the first detailed report on the events in the territories. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that after he heard the details of the U.S. plan for the political move, Mr Rabin expressed his support, thus joining the position of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres."]

Details of U.S. Plan Revealed

TA101015 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] The U.S. is proposing that negotiations on the final status of the administered territories begin in December 1988, even if the transitional arrangement has not been worked out by then, informed sources said last night. [passage omitted]

Details of the American plan emerged yesterday, in the wake of a briefing given to an Israeli diplomat by a top U.S. official. It includes the following elements:

—An American effort to obtain Israeli and Jordanian agreement on a "statement of principles" during March. Israeli sources said that Secretary of State George Shultz might come to the area in March to seal an agreement on the statement.

—An international conference to open in April, the scope and nature of which will be based on the April 1987 London agreement between Jordan's King Husayn and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Likud sources have consistently opposed this aspect of the American plan.

—Direct negotiations on arrangements for a transitional period, to be held between May and December following the international opening. The U.S. proposes that the transitional period last no longer than three years, reasoning that it must not appear to be a permanent solution. The transitional period will not be dubbed "autonomy" nor will the Camp David Accords be mentioned as the basis for negotiations.

—Talks on the final status will be based on UN Resolution 242, with the U.S. espousing the September, 1982 Reagan plan which calls for the ultimate "association" of the West Bank and Gaza with Jordan.

The proposal uses the term "non-interlocking" to describe the lack of interdependece between the talks on the transitional period and those on the final status.

The U.S. has also apparantly proposed to Jordan that the two countries sign a memorandum of understanding in which the U.S. will undertake to oppose any unilateral Israeli steps meant to alter the status in the territories in Israel's favour. Further, the U.S. will pledge that the talks on the final status will begin on a specific date, and that it will ensure that the transitional period will indeed be temporary. [passage omitted]

The U.S., said sources in Jerusalem, intends to concentrate its efforts on the proposed "statement of principles" so that it would serve as the basis for further peace efforts by the next administration, should the proposed talks run aground.

Sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that there are "indications" that both Jordan and Egypt have agreed to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation even if the PLO does not agree.

Aides to Shamir said that although the prime minister was quite willing to consider some "adjustments" in the time periods prescribed in Camp David, he had ruled out "extreme changes" that appeared to figure in the American thinking. [passage omitted]

Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that even though Jordan's status in the territories had become greatly eroded over the years, Israel should realise that prospects of progress in any form of contact, were slim as long as Jordan was not a partner to negotiations. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Minister said Israel was probably wrong in the past, to have lumped supporters of the PLO in the territories, together with the PLO leadership abroad. By doing so, it had eliminated all alternative Palestinian

representation in the territories today. Israel should perhaps have let a local leadership to develop, which talked PLO language, but acted independently, he said.

Shamir Urged To Accept Plan

TA071140 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The Answer Is 'Yes'"]

[Text] The arrival of U.S. special envoy Richard Murphy to the region decreases the political maneuvering room of the potential partners to the process. Husayn, Mubarak, Shamir, and the Palestinians will have to speak more clearly and in a more binding way than the vague phrases we have heard so far. Husayn will have to accept or reject the U.S. initiative, which in fact is nothing more than the Reagan plan in stages. Yitzhaq Shamir will have to unveil what he means by his autonomy plan and his interim arrangement—whether he is referring to the Camp David autonomy or an improved version according to the original interpretation of the prime minister's office.

In light of our grave public image in international public opinion, an Israeli rejection of the political process might cause a serious deterioration in our relations with the United States. A half-hearted acceptance of the initiative will also not serve Israel's public image.

Shamir—who contrary to several of his colleagues in the Likud senior echelon, realizes it is necessary to enter the political process—must show political independence and national leadership and accept the U.S. initiative.

AL-NAHAR 'Skeptical' of Move

TA051746 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Present U.S. Moves—A Waste of Effort"]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will be the second envoy sent by the United States to the region in 1 week. These trips are against the background of the current events in the occupied Arab territories, which have ostensibly aroused the concern of the U.S. Administration and led it to invigorate the peace efforts in the Middle East region.

Obviously this unserious U.S. concern will reach its climax when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in the region and announces his intention to undertake "shuttle" trips between various states of the Middle East to push the peace process on the basis of U.S. statements and declarations.

Previously the United States had embarked on similar attempts. The heroes of these historical efforts were at times Murphy himself, and at other times Shultz would take the initiative. The old-new experiences are, however, linked by a common denominator. They are linked by the adherence to the calculations of the Israeli political leadership that is itself divided. This is the factor that led to the failure of previous efforts.

We can mention in this respect, for example, the issue of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation that almost succeeded but suddenly was thwarted because the Israeli political leadership squandered that golden opportunity for peace.

The question that arises now is: What has changed in Israeli political conditions, in the view of the U.S. Administration, so that it has deemed fit to repeat the previous failed experiences?

If we were to suppose that a certain change had occurred, then indications are that this change is for the worse. The political leadership in Israel is leaning toward extremism and to closing the doors on serious peace solutions more than any time in the past. Consequently, the chances for the failure of the current efforts are almost double what they were in the past.

The effective alternative to these efforts—whose success is very much in doubt—is the application of pressure by the United States on Israeli decisionmakers in order to convince them that the United States favors a just settlement. Is Washington now ready to play this role? The recent U.S. veto cast by the United States at the Security Council, the basic motive of which was to satisfy Israel even at the expense of Palestinian rights, makes us very skeptical of having faith in the U.S. intentions behind the new moves that will be undertaken by Murphy, Shultz, and other U.S. officials.

Egyptian Peace Plan Urges Tripartite Meeting

TA100703 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo yesterday at the end of a 2-week trip, in the course of which he met with seven heads of states. Mubarak had been trying to promote a new peace initiative, but it seems he encountered a U.S. approach which is substantively different from his view on the way to further the peace process.

An up-to-date assessment of the situation will be made in Cairo in the coming days to examine the chances for a new Egyptian plan. This plan proposes that a tripartite meeting be convened in Cairo, even before the Israeli elections, between the Israeli, Egyptian, and Jordanian foreign ministers, with Palestinian personages participating in the Jordanian delegation.

Egyptian Ambassador on Peace Process, Unrest

TA081540 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Feb 88 p A5

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni regards the proposal that the autonomy talks be resumed as a regression taking us back at least 10 years. He maintains that the Jordanians and the Palestinians object to a solution reached through the existing Camp David framework. In his assessment, the prolonged talks held on the autonomy issue in Tel Aviv and Cairo have finally reached a deadlock.

Basyuni, who was the guest at a special "Shabat'iton" forum, held on Saturday jointly by MA'ARIV, the Tel Aviv Municipality, and the Cameri Theater, emphasized that the international conference is the only way currently acceptable to all the Arab parties.

He explained that such a conference would be devoid of the power to force solutions on the participants and will likewise be banned from imposing a veto on agreements that might be reached between Israel and the parties involved in the conflict. He asked: "So why should Israel fear such a conference?"

The ambassador explained that the prevailing and future Egyptian strategy advocates seeking a permanent solution to resolve the regional conflict so that all the nations living in the Middle East could coexist peacefully in friendship. He said that Egypt, which signed a peace agreement with Israel, is currently capable of offering its services insofar as the Arabs and the superpowers are concerned with the aim of obtaining peace and tranquility in the Middle East for the good of Israel and the Arabs.

He said that Egypt has no desire to be the sole Arab country honoring a separate peace agreement, Egypt therefore strives to have other Arab countries join the process.

Basyuni emphasized that all the Israeli leaders, from the Alignment and the Likud alike, will be acceptable to Egypt in negotiations for the implementation of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

"Our problem is not the Likud or the Alignment, but the fact that we want peace for all." He said that it is impossible to talk only to Jordan's King Husayn about the solution to the Palestinian problem. It is equally necessary to talk to the people involved, and they are the Palestinians.

Basyuni said that the uprising in the territories came as no surprise to Egypt because it is a well-known fact that it is very difficult to rule over other people by force for an extended period of time. This uprising provided the background for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative. The initiative was intended to prove to the whole world that in view of the fear that the situation in the Middle East might deteriorate, it is imperative to promote the peace process.

Tamir, Jordanians, Egyptians Confer on Peace

TA081251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Jordanian and Egyptian elements told the director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Avraham Tamir, that their countries continue to favor the launching of the political process through an international conference. Tamir reportedly discussed this matter with the Jordanian and Egyptian elements on his way to South America.

U.S. Appeals To Prevent Tamir Visit to Panama

TA100744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States is asking the foreign minister to prevent Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir's visit to Panama. Director General Tamir is currently touring South America and plans to visit Panama.

Our correspondent in Washington has learned that Ambassador Arad had explained that the Foreign Ministry director general's visit to Panama will damage U.S.-Israeli relations because of the high tension prevailing between Washington and the Panamanian ruler. Our correspondent notes that the United States is investigating suspicions that the Panamanian ruler was involved in drug trafficking to its territory.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer adds that various U.S. personages, including senators and the head of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, have appealed to Israel to get Israeli businessman Mikha'el Harari, who serves as General Noriega's right-hand man, out of Panama. According to U.S. reports, Harari served as the Mossad man in Panama. Israel responded that it cannot do anything about the matter because Harari is an independent businessman.

Visit Not To Be Canceled

TA100821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has decided that Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir's visit to Panama in a week's time will take place as scheduled, despite the appeal by Israel's ambassador to the United States that the visit be canceled due to the growing conflict between Washington and Panamanian strongman General Noriega. Our correspondent has been told there is no reason to cancel Tamir's visit to a friendly country.

Foreign Ministry Regrets 'Critical' EC Remarks

TA091743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Israel has expressed regret over the EC's one-sided attitude as demonstrated by its member countries' critical declaration regarding Israel's attempts to restore peace in the territories. These remarks were made by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem.

Our political correspondent reports that the Foreign Ministry's announcement states that Israel regards the declaration issued by the EC countries as one made by friendly states.

Shamir Terms Decision 'Unjust'

TA091335 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 88 p A7

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday expressed his regret over the decision made by the EEC foreign ministers. He said that "the foreign ministers are persisting in their unjust attitude."

Foreign Ministry officials also expressed dissatisfaction with the foreign ministers' decision, but saw an advantage in that the foreign ministers had welcomed the U.S. initiative and reiterated their stand in favor of a conference.

Regarding the fact that the economic agreement had not been ratified, Shamir said: "There is no connection between the agreement and the events in the area. This is unfair. It causes financial damage to our agriculture."

Editorial Advocates Efforts To Oust Waldheim

TA091348 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 88 p A10

[Editorial: "Waldheim Is Guilty"]

[Text] What else needs to be exposed about Kurt Waldheim's Nazi past for the Austrians to reach the conclusion that the man is not worthy of serving as their president? Or will the harsh findings of the historians committee which examined Waldheim's past convince the Austrians that the man indeed represents them faithfully? If so, the Austrians may be judging themselves subjectively.

The Austrians' patience and tolerance toward their besmirched president—officially now, by a committee that he initiated—stem from a feeling of guilt. Who, better than the Austrians, knows that Waldheim's cooperation with the Nazis was not different from the collective conduct of the decisive majority of the Austrian public during World War II.

This is also why Waldheim does not understand what is wanted of him. Are the expulsion of Jews from Saloniki or the murder of Yugoslav partisans in the Kusara region such irregular acts in the history of a people which saw itself as part of the Third Reich?

Nevertheless, what seemed natural in the eyes of the Austrians cannot be accepted by the rest of the peoples in the world, surely not by the Jewish people. The historians committee found that Waldheim was at least a passive partner, an activist, and well-informed about the monstrosities that were perpetrated, with his knowledge, in the region where he served as a staff officer in Hitler's army.

Equipped with this ruling of history the Israeli Government must launch a diplomatic offensive in every international forum to force the Vienna government to get rid of its president, without letting this government and its people view such a deposition as an act that will exonerate the acts of all other Austrian sinners.

Shamir Criticizes Alignment Stand on Settlement

TA091611 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report from the Knesset by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] In a firm address, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening settled his accounts with the Alignment ministers, who he claims are driving a wedge among the Cabinet members, as well as with the Arab countries for neglecting and ignoring the refugee camps, as we have grown accustomed to hearing recently, with the media presenting a distorted and harmful picture.

First to the Alignment: The prime minister said that the Alignment has been swept to the left, so that the Likud is currently at the center of the political map. The Alignment is growing closer to the Peace Now movement, and Alignment ministers are emphasizing the divisions and differences because national unity will present obstacles to their goal of making far-reaching concessions and withdrawals.

[Begin Shamir recording] Whenever we meet, Likud and Alignment members—in every meeting I hear top Alignment leaders, or to be more precise, the Alignment head—making efforts to employ every reason and take every opportunity to prove and underline the schism between us. [end recording]

Regarding the U.S. initiative, if Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres views it as a continuation of the London accords reached with King Husuyn, then Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the Americans are currently airing the Camp David accords and the autonomy plan—which he claims is the cornerstone for the renewed efforts.

This evening, the dialogue with the U.S. Administration will be launched during a meeting between Mr Shamir and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. Shamir believes the Americans have our good in mind, but he does not gloss over the possibility of differences of opinion, particularly with regard to the accelerated speed advocated by the new initiative and the possibility of shortening the autonomy period.

[Begin Shamir recording] This is a problem, and we will have to insist on our position, possibly even argue and barter. Nevertheless, this is our stand, and the United States knows with whom it is dealing. [end recording]

Summing up, the prime minister said: We gladly embark on talks with the United States. We are open to persuasion but convinced that we ourselves will be able to persuade, being fully determined to insist on our principles.

Weizman Calls For Negotiations, End to Unrest

TA091640 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
7 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—In an interview with AL-NAHAR's Israeli affairs editor, Israeli Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman said that the Palestinian leaders should stop the incidents and strikes in the occupied territories for a period of between 2 and 3 weeks and call on Israel and the Arab states involved in the conflict to begin negotiations for resolving this conflict.

Weizman said that these negotiations should be based on the principle of mutual recognition. He affirmed his readiness to meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the condition that the acts of violence be stopped and on PLO recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Weizman added that should Israel refuse to start these negotiations, then the Palestinians can continue their strikes. He called on the Palestinian leadership to embark on a courageous initiative.

Leaders Urged To Face 'Reality' in Territories

TA091907 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
8 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "What Is Required From Israel"]

[Text] The time has come for the Israeli political and military leaderships to reassess a great number of calculations concerning the residents of the occupied territories. We say this after it has become very clear that Israeli policy regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip has not led to any result other than aggravating the situation.

A person who follows Israeli reactions to the events in the occupied territories discovers that the Israeli leadership believes it is waging a military battle. This condition makes this leadership regard any retreat in its positions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a military defeat, which would harm the prestige of some generals.

It is worth noting that Israel, which is experiencing a real crisis these days, has lost not only the ability to deal with the new realities but also the capability of achieving consensus regarding developments in the Palestinian arena.

What is required from Israel at this stage is to deal with the new political reality in the occupied territories by reassessing calculations and by canceling all military orders and instructions issued against residents in the occupied land.

A new page devoid of collective punishment, as well as the release of the detainees, abolition of the deportation orders, and the removal of the army from population centers, can give the impression that Israel is interested in rectifying the error and is proceeding toward exchanging "land for peace."

Editorial on Effects of Settlers Provocations

TA091654 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
6 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Settlers' Provocations and the Question Before Rabin"]

[Text] Israeli settlers have apparently decided to be a party to the confrontation against residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is also apparent that these settlers are interested in escalating tension by accusing the Israeli army of not providing them with the necessary protection.

As a result of their previous experiences with the settlers, the residents of the occupied territories know that the leaders of this movement have been increasing and accelerating their attacks on Arab residents and properties.

It is important to point out that in the events that have taken place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the confrontations have been between Palestinians and the Israeli army, as Israeli officials have also acknowledged.

It seems that the settlers want to depict themselves as victims of the recent events in an attempt to focus Israeli public opinion on incidents for which the settlers were more responsible than the Palestinians. The firing by settlers on two youths from Baytin, in which one of the youths was killed and the other wounded, is one of the more recent examples indicating the settlers' intention to aggravate affairs.

Yitzhaq Rabin's response to the settlers' provocations and attacks against residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues to be traditional, not going beyond the repetition of words and expressions known to everyone.

Rabin's remark that the Israeli army will not allow the residents to take law and order into their own hands needs to be proved on the road to Hebron, near Bayt Furik, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus. The army intervenes after the settlers attack Arab youths and their properties. This is not the response that Rabin's remarks convey.

The settlers' presence on the soil of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is illegal. They must realize that their provocations and instigatory actions cannot possibly be acceptable to the Palestinians.

The question that remains before Minister Rabin and commanders of the Israeli army is: Do they want to see the Palestinians in confrontation with the settlers?

Divided Jerusalem Seen as 'Microcosm' of Unrest

TA081422 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

["Analysis" by Yehuda Litani: "A United Jerusalem Is No Longer a United City"]

[Text] Tomorrow will mark the beginning of the third month of the Palestinian uprising in the territories. The local committees in the refugee camps, towns, and villages, and the "central uprising committee" have already called for an intensification of riots and strikes over the next few days.

The latest Palestinian achievement is the redivision of united Jerusalem. For many years, the feeling in East Jerusalem was one of quiet before a storm. Now the storm has broken, and there are barricaded streets in Arab neighbourhoods throughout the city, broken windows in Jewish East Talpiyyot, refugee camps under curfew, riots and demonstrations, a prolonged commercial strike, and closed schools.

Both Jews and Arabs living here know that for the last few weeks the city has been practically redivided. Many ask themselves if it was ever united. Jews are going out of their way to avoid passing through Arab neighbourhoods, and fewer Arabs are shopping in Talpiyyot and Rehov Yafo.

An East Jerusalem journalist commented yesterday: "Now we have proved to you that we are, after all, part of the West Bank. You Israelis imagined all the time that the East Jerusalemites are very different from the West Bankers, that rioting and striking would hurt us and would not be worth the consequences. Now we see that the result is not so bad for us. On the contrary, it is good, despite the harsh reaction of the army and the police and the economic repercussion."

The journalist added that the intensified rioting in East Jerusalem had come in direct response to a call from the "central uprising committee."

Jerusalem is the microcosm that reflects the macrocosm. In Jerusalem, Jews and Arabs live cheek by jowl, and every little incident is echoed in the territories. An apparently minor incident can spark a massive reaction. Until the latest riots, a delicate balance had been maintained, but only just. Now, even Mayor Teddy Kollek, the symbol of united Jerusalem, is saying that the situation has changed fundamentally.

It may be days, even weeks, before rioting stops in East Jerusalem. But even then, it will probably only be a temporary cessation of unrest. The precedent has been established. East Jerusalem has now assumed a vital—perhaps the leading—role in the disturbances, determining how the inhabitants of the territories react.

Leadership Factions in Territories Described

TA081833 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 88 p 9

["Who Is in Control in the Territories"—third installment in a series of commentaries by Ze'ev Schiff: "The War of the Territories: Lessons and Conclusions"]

[Text] Who is in control in the territories? It is obvious that from a military point of view, the control is in the hands of the IDF which has the necessary power to reach every place, enter settlements, refugee camps, and casbahs, and to force open roads. It can be presumed that this situation is not about to undergo a perceptible change. Any comparison between the occupied territories and other territories in which uprisings have taken place, such as Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Kurdistan, is in many respects inappropriate. But this is only military and geographical control, and it is not enough.

Inside, in the various settlements, the problem is different. There Fatah, or rather the PLO as we call it, is predominant as far as control of these places is concerned. The IDF is incapable of being everywhere all the time, and the moment its forces leave a location, the control over the residents passes to the other side.

Before we elaborate on this statement, it should be stressed that another element, a non-Arab one, can endanger the IDF's control: the radicals within the Jewish settlements. There is information that they are toying with the idea that an escalation of the riots to the point of a civil war would bring about either the expulsion or the flight of the Arab population, and that they can contribute toward this outcome by doing what the IDF cannot afford to do. Being armed, these radicals might prove a genuine burden on the army.

Inside the Arab population there are various factions vying for control. They are divided by quarrels not unlike those that plagued the Jews at the outset of the Jewish settlement in Palestine, before the declaration of the state of Israel. We must not, however, delude ourselves in this matter. All the Arab factions object to Israel, and some of them feel a profound hatred for

anything that represents the state of Israel. The moment the IDF is evacuated from cities or districts, whether as part of a unilateral autonomy unaccompanied by any agreement, or following a hasty agreement, the PLO will be the one to assume control of these places, alone or with partners from other factions. If the Jordanian Army does not replace the IDF—and it should be remembered that there is a national consensus that no foreign army is to cross the Jordan River westward—then the PLO will be the one to take over the evacuated area.

When King Husayn says that he does not wish to take part in negotiations for autonomy, he probably fears that this is what will happen. Understanding all this is also important to Israel in the sense that it enables us to remember that there is no practical significance to any negotiations over the future of the territories without the participation of the Palestinians and their representatives. One way or the other, they will assume control the moment the IDF budges.

The struggle over internal control in the territories began a long time ago, even before the recent riots. This competition is often accompanied by bloodshed. Four blocs, or factions, take part in this power struggle. In one way or another they are also behind the uprising. The factions are: Fatah; the Islamic bloc, with all its factions; the communists and the left with all its factions; and the pro-Jordanian group.

Let us begin with the weaker group, the pro-Jordanians, on whom a part of the Israeli Government tried unofficially to rely. There are some, including the Americans, who claim that this group still exists. Even if this is true, it is obvious that the pro-Jordanians have diminished considerably. They are in a tough position, and they maintain silence. During the entire period in which they enjoyed Israel's tacit support, the pro-Jordanians hardly managed to increase the number of their rank. They did dare enlarge the scope of their activities. They found many willing to accept their money (much less than promised), but these people did not support them against the other factions. The fact that some of their supporters simultaneously sing two tunes, playing pro-Jordan and pro-PLO music, has also not helped the cause.

The pro-Jordanians may have some potential support in the Arab sector (420 villages), they still have a say in several municipalities, in chambers of commerce, in three trade unions dependent on Jordan for licenses and exams (physicians, lawyers, and engineers), and among the numerous Waqf employees. The Jordanian Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Holy Places, and Religious Trusts has free movement in the West Bank, and pays the salaries of thousands of employees. But Fatah seems to be working its way into that body too.

Of the other splinters, Fatah is the strongest and has managed to gain control of positions heretofore the natural domain of the religious sector or the left. In the Gaza Strip, for instance, it has completely taken over the six trade unions in spite of the Civilian Administration's attempts to prevent elections. Using the same methods, it began penetrating the mosques in the Gaza Strip, and even has a representative, Faysal al-Husayni, on the Supreme Muslim Council in the West Bank.

Fatah still faces a serious problem posed by that strong Islamic element in the Gaza Strip, the Mujama', which has not embraced terrorism but which nevertheless participated in the riots. Clearly, Fatah has a closer affinity with that still more fanatic religious body which does deal with terrorism, the Islamic Jihad. Fatah has set up a confederation of trade unions to rival the left in almost every sphere.

Fatah's infrastructure consists of, among other things, several research institutes, most of the newspapers published in the territories, as well as the press agencies which have been very active during the disturbances. It encompasses the voluntary societies, including the Al-Shabibah committees which are active among the young. This is a vast infrastructure enabling penetration into all areas of activity in the lives of the local population. This will make the process of gaining control over the area in the event of a withdrawal much easier.

All of these factions were active during the riots, or alternatively joined them during the second stage. The uprising bred a new stratum of neighborhood leaders whom the authorities are now trying to incorporate into other bodies or overcome. The activity in the area is still nebulous and the splinters are still not easily distinguishable from one another. The most active radio station with the largest audience is the one broadcasting from southern Syria on behalf of Fatah's nemesis, Ahmad Jibril.

All of the factions distribute inflammatory leaflets with announcements to the population, thereby circumventing the censorship imposed on the press. Another type of activity which has recently emerged is the attempt to effect bodily and material harm to people connected to Israel, even those only cooperating with the Civilian Administration.

The rioters claim to have successfully established a "United National Front Leadership for the Escalation of the Uprising". It is doubtful whether such an achievement has really been scored. More likely, there is only coordination of regional matters among the various groups. Nevertheless, even if this unification is not true today, it may be true tomorrow, although presumably the Shin Bet will be able to combat these groups.

More on Events, Disturbances in Territories

Youth's Body Found in Tulkarm

TA091616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The body of a 17-year old youth was found near a roadblock in the village of 'Attil, in the Tulkarm district. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that

the IDF is investigating the circumstances in which Nabil Abu Khalil died. Apparently he was killed by shots from a firearm.

Qaddum Youth 'Shot' by Settler

TA091805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus, who has just entered the studio, has fresh details regarding the death of the Qaddum youth killed by an Israeli. A resident of Qedumim is suspected of the killing:

The special investigation team set up by the Samaria Police has the following findings. At 2300 last night two Israeli residents of Qedumim showed up in the village of Qaddum, in the Tulkarm district, to pick up workers. They encountered a stone barrier, stone throwing, and dozens of masked youths. The two withdrew, and the man who was in the passenger seat shot a round in the air from an Uzi. The police assume that the Arab youth was hit by that round. In any event, the investigation is continuing. The gunman will be brought to court tomorrow where he will be arrested. It is assumed that the police will not object to releasing him on bail.

Settler Released on Bail

TA101119 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A justice of the Netanya magistrate's court has released Yosef Ferber, a Qedumim resident suspected of having killed an Arab youth from Kafr Qaddum last Sunday, on bail. Shim'on Qav of Qedumim, who was driving the car with Yosef Ferber in it, was also released on bail. The police did not object to their release.

Gazans Stone Hebronites

TA091628 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Yosi Levi, 'Imanu'el Rosen, Ilan Bakhar, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Jerusalem police are searching for five Arab youths considered responsible for instigation in various parts of East Jerusalem. The five, dressed in red keffiyehs, have been turning up in the Jerusalem area since 19 January, organizing riots that were staged in different locations every day. They usually disappear from the scene a few minutes after the beginning of the disturbance, and the police have so far been unable to identify them. "I think the five live outside Jerusalem, and that they scan the area systematically. I hope we will be able to locate and apprehend them soon," said a very senior Jerusalem police officer yesterday.

The Jerusalem police yesterday apprehended the youth who hurled a Molotov cocktail at the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva on East Jerusalem's Hagay Street. By midnight, about 30 suspects had been detained east of the city. [passage omitted]

Hebron residents who arrived in Gaza last week were pelted by stones by the locals, who claimed they are cowards. The Gazans said that the Hebron people had neither participated in the general effort in the territories nor contributed to the uprising. It was for that reason that the radio station broadcasting from Damascus to the territories added special programs ridiculing the Hebronites and explicitly threatening them.

Security sources say that the pressure on the residents of Hebron and its surroundings was probably the main reason for this week's outbreak of riots there, at the peak of which three residents of the village of Al-Immar were killed, and which included violent riots in the village of Al-'Arrub.

One of the leaflets distributed in the West Bank yesterday called on the residents to stage demonstrations against the visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, and to boycott him as they had boycotted Secretary of State George Shultz during his last visit to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

'Exceptional Incidents' in Gaza

TA091721 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Gaza was relatively quiet today, except for two exceptional incidents.

This morning, a youth was brought to the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba in serious condition, and later died. The circumstances of the death are still undetermined.

A Rafah youth was wounded in the leg by shots fired from a revolver after he and his friends attacked an IDF patrol with rocks, forcing it to return fire.

Youth Dies of Wounds in Gaza

TA091837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A youth from the Gaza neighborhood of Zaytun died this morning in Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital. The youth, who had head wounds, was brought to the hospital last night. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of his death.

Yesterday another youth was brought to Barzilay Hospital. He had been injured in the eye by a rubber bullet, and underwent surgery.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Gaza Strip was relatively quiet today. During a riot, a 16-year old youth was shot in the leg. He was released after receiving medical treatment.

21 Arabs Detained in Jerusalem

TA091845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem police today arrested 21 Arab suspects in connection with the recent wave of disturbances in the capital. Late this afternoon the police briefly lifted the curfew on the village of 'Anata near Jerusalem. This was done to permit residents to stock up on essentials. [passage omitted]

Pamphlet Printing Shop Closed

TA100918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A printing shop used for the printing of pamphlets was seized by the security forces in the village of 'Isawiyah on Mount Scopus. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the printing shop was shut down by order of the commander of the Central Command.

A blockade was imposed on the village during the security forces' operation and the entrances were blocked off. The blockade was later lifted.

2 Wounded in Nabulus Riots

TA101430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] An IDF officer was attacked during riots this afternoon in the Nabulus casbah. He was forced to open fire at the legs of the rioters, slightly wounding two of them. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir. The IDF commander was compelled to open fire after an attempt was made to disperse the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

An inhabitant of the Al-Mughazi refugee camp who was wounded about a month ago died of his wounds at Soroka Hospital this afternoon.

Relative quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip, while in Judaea and Samaria there have been several instances of stone throwing and tire burning. As said, only in Nabulus was there a more severe incident.

Update on Unrest Casualties

TA091440 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] Forty-five Arabs have been killed in clashes with the security forces since the bloody disturbances in the territories began 2 months ago. More than 430 people have been wounded. These figures are based on figures compiled by the IDF since 9 December.

According to these figures 19 Arabs have been killed and 241 wounded in the West Bank in clashes with the security forces. In the Gaza Strip 26 Arabs were killed and 193 wounded.

The number of IDF soldiers who have been wounded during the disturbances is 122, 83 in the West Bank and 39 in the Gaza Strip.

The number of Israeli citizens wounded during the disturbances is 69—65 in the West Bank and 4 in the Gaza Strip.

These figures were updated on the basis of reports by the security forces as of noon yesterday, and do not include deaths which occurred over the last 2 months in unclear circumstances.

Palestinian elements have information about a larger number of deaths and a far greater number of injuries. One of the reasons is that many of the inhabitants of the territories who have been wounded in clashes with the security forces over the last 2 months preferred to avoid medical treatment, fearing that their hospitalization would lead to their arrest by the security forces.

'Return Ship' Passengers Leave for Athens

JN091608 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Amman, 9 Feb (PETRA)—The families of those who were deported from the occupied Arab territories bade farewell to their relatives at the PLO office in Amman. The deportees left Amman for Athens today to participate aboard the return ship. One hundred and five citizens who were deported from their land by the Israeli occupation authorities left Amman today in addition to 21 key figures representing trade unions, professional organizations, and the press.

At a news conference at the PLO office this morning, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the return ship committee, expressed thanks and appreciation to the press and the media for the extensive coverage they have been allotting this prominent event: the return home to participate with the kinfolk in the occupied territories in their blessed popular uprising against the Israeli occupation.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih then read the statement prepared by the return ship committee. The statement says: The idea behind undertaking this trip is a national political idea designed to highlight the Palestinian people as a militant people who are concerned about their rights, who do not relinquish them, and who want to return to their homeland to exercise their natural rights and implement the UN Security Council resolutions, resolutions which state that the occupation authorities have no right to deport any citizen from his homeland in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The statement explains that the trip seeks to support and express militant cohesion with the relatives in the occupied homeland in their blessed uprising for the attainment of the Palestinian people's national rights, represented by the right to end the occupation. The statement adds that the trip also seeks to achieve repatriation, a just peace, and secure life far from occupation, oppression, and aggression. The statement points out that those who are participating in the trip are not carrying any type of weapon, not even a stone, which is the weapon used by the heroes in the occupied homeland.

Responding to a question on what Israel's reply to this might be, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: We are ready to face any measure Israel intends to adopt, even if this leads to our arrest or to the sinking of the ship. He explained that the Palestinians are peace advocates and that the Israelis are those who are obstructing the establishment of peace in the region.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that 400 to 500 passengers will be on the return ship and that these are international figures who sympathize with the Palestinian cause, in addition to members of the press. Shaykh al-Sa'ih noted that the return ship's course will be determined on the high seas and in light of developments.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the committee is ready to accept any assistance that may be offered to it during the trip. He called on the world to support the Palestinian cause and to pressure Israel and those who support it to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Dawud Muhammad Sulayman, a member of the House of Representatives for Jerusalem and head of the House's Occupied Territories Affairs Committee, was also present to bid farewell to the delegation that will participate on the return trip.

Prime Minister Returns From Europe 9 Feb

JN091903 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening after participating in the official talks his majesty King Husayn held in France and the FRG during his current tour of a number of European countries to explain Jordanian and Arab views on the current political issues in the Arab region, foremost of which are the Middle East crisis, the sufferings of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Accompanying his majesty King Husayn, the prime minister also attended part of the meeting of the EC foreign ministers during which his majesty delivered a comprehensive speech shedding light on the real situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf. He also conveyed the unified Arab position that has emerged from the Amman summit regarding the current fateful issues.

Al-Rifa'i was received at Alia International Airport by the deputy prime minister and education minister, and a number of ministers and senior officials.

Crown Prince Hasan Views Palestinian Situation

JN060934 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[By Salamah Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, urged Arab intellectuals and communicators Friday [5 February] to contribute to bridging the gap between the perceptions of decisionmakers and the silent majority in the Arab World on issues related to the complexities of Arab causes.

"It is important that we do not give up our responsibility in addressing the silent majority who are in need to know that their leaders are aware of their causes," the Crown Prince told the annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

He said people should be informed that their leaders are "responding to their stands and feelings...and concerned with keeping open the communication channels between themselves and their citizens for the exchange of opinion and an explanation and clarification of stands."

Speaking in the context of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, Prince Hasan told the forum that people "should not be left to become victims of mistaken allegations, gossip and poisoned thought."

"In this context," the Crown Prince said, "an irresponsible demand for total freedom in the absence of institutions through which legitimate demands of the silent majority can be fulfilled, may help drive young people towards organised extremism."

He called on Arab intellectuals from 20 Arab countries present at the forum "not to leave the arena open for illogical and rigid forces," and to "become aware that all of us—Jordanians, Jordanian Palestinians and Jordanian Arabs—know the way to dealing with the current events, despite their bitterness and harshness, through a proper analysis and understanding and the requirements of the circumstances themselves."

He reminded the 170-member ATF that "Jordan was the first to call for the (Palestinian) right to self-determination, rejected (Jewish) settlements and warned of their threat."

He said the Kingdom "has always followed practical and quiet methods to support people in the occupied territories at a time when the prevailing Arab position was to adopt general slogans about supporting the steadfastness (of Palestinians), confronting the occupation and liberating the land—without proper knowledge of the intricacies and contents of the issues at hand."

The Crown Prince pointed out to the alienation of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories due to division in political ranks on the outside and Israel's policies of exploting these divisions. Prince Hasan was referring to divisions within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the discrepancies in stands of Arab states.

He said Israel has repeatedly attempted to sow the seeds of division within and without the occupied territories, including a separation between Palestinians under Israeli rule after the 1948 war and Palestinians in the territories occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"We need to reconsider our assessment of issues and estimation of events in an objective manner as thinkers and analysts and to sincerely address the conscience of our citizens who, every day, bleed to the tragic sight relayed by the media of the suffering of Palestinians under Israeli occupation."

He noted that Israel was attempting "to spoil the image of the innocent and spontaneous Palestinian struggle and sacrifices."

Arabs on the outside should not try to attribute the uprising to themselves, he said.

"The responsibilities of our intellectuals and media people is great, in the way of clarifying and analysing the situation. We are in a ba.' need for the gathering of all sincere and enlightened forces" the Crown Prince concluded.

Royal Decree Extends Parliament Session

JN091629 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A royal decree has been issued extending the ordinary session of Parliament, which ends on 10 February, for 1 month.

Imam Musa al-Sadr To Appear 'in 4 Weeks'

JN091241 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Ayatollah Mehdi Rohani, the spiritual guide of Muslim Shi'ites in Europe, said in a telephone statement to AFP today that Imam Musa al-Sadr is presently in an Arab country and will appear in Cairo in 4 weeks. He asserted: I have received information in that regard from a reliable source.

Ayatollah Rohani, however, declined to name the Arab country where Imam Musa al-Sadr is now living.

Imam Musa al-Sadr disappeared in 1978 during a visit to Libya. He is the chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council and founder of Amal.

Council Has No Information

NC100611 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council has denied that the Council has any information on the reappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. The source affirmed that the Council will maintain a close watch on any developments in this regard.

Negotiations on UNRWA Hostages Continue

LD091257 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] We should now insert a late report: There is slow progress in the negotiations with those who kidnapped the UN Swede Jan Stening and his Norwegian colleague in Lebanon. We heard this a little while ago from the town of Sidon, where the negotiations are going on, and where Per Olof Hallquist, head of UNRWA in Lebanon, now is. He rejects all the rumors circulating to the effect that their release has already taken place.

Our correspondent Agneta Ramberg, who is also in Sidon, says that the negotiations have been proceeding and are being held in a spirit of optimism, but that the hostages have still not been freed.

UNIFIL Spokesman Denies Kidnapping Attempt

NC091214 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A UNIFIL spokesman has denied that a Fijian soldier was the target of a kidnapping attempt. He explained that the soldier deserted his position a week ago to visit Beirut and was returned to his position today.

5 Frenchmen Investigating Merrin's Death

NC091806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] AFP has quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that five members of the French intelligence service are currently in Beirut. They are investigating the 2 February murder of Jacques Merrin. The source added that the five men arrived in Lebanon at the beginning of this week and have made contacts with certain political figures to identify the individuals who carried out the assassination of the French intelligence operative. The source reports that according to the investigation, Armenians might be involved. The source also told AFP that the Lebanese investigators working on the case are convinced that the murderers of Jacques Merrin are the same people who killed two French policemen in Al-Dawrah on 29 October 1987.

9 February Group Claims Attacks on Syrians

NC091253 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] On the 2d anniversary of the assassination of its leader Khalil 'Akkawi, the Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for a series of operations against the Syrian occupation army in northern Lebanon.

The organization declares that at 2200 yesterday its fighters used RPG's and machineguns to attack a Syrian Army position in the 'Ayn al-Burj area in Al-Minyah. A 15-minute clash ensued in which the Syrians suffered an unspecified number of casualties.

At 2230 another group from the 9 February Organization attacked a Syrian occupation army position at the (Bahmid) intersection in Al-Minyah. The group used RPG's, hand grenades, and machineguns in the 10-minute attack, in which the Syrians sustained casualties.

Today at 1030 gunmen of the Khalil 'Akkawi unit attacked a Syrian position near the Great Mosque in Tripoli. They sprayed the position with machinegun fire for 10 minutes, inflicting casualties on the Syrians.

Israeli Warplanes, Gunboats Near Sidon

NC091752 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes today flew repeated missions over Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps. Following several sorties in the morning and afternoon, the planes flew over the same area again at 1845. Israeli gunboats were also sighted off Sidon's shores.

Overflights Continue 10 Feb

NC100852 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier at 1030 today during sorties in the Lebanese skies.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Still Control Highway Link to USSR

BK091320 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 9 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas still block the highway linking northern Afghanistan with the Soviet Union which would be used in the event of a Soviet troop withdrawal, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. Soviet and Afghan Government forces pounded the area following rebel attacks in which both sides suffered casualties, the diplomats said.

"Travel on Salang Highway is becoming increasingly difficult," they said, quoting multiple reports that guerrillas had blocked the highway near Kalakan, Shakar Darreh and Kariz-e Mir. The diplomats also said that they observed traffic jams where the highway starts outside Kabul.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that a 10-month pull-out would start on May 15 if talks in Geneva ended in an accord by March 15. United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez said Tuesday that Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed to resume indirect peace talks in Geneva on March 2.

Mujahidin guerrillas in eastern Paktia Province had meanwhile resumed their siege of the Khowst-Gardeyz highway, diplomats said, adding that the absence of military convoys moving south indicated that Soviet and Afghan forces were prepared to "concede" the strategic road to the guerrillas.

Fighting intensified in Qandahar and Ghazni Provinces in the south and Herat Province in the north last week and pressure was increasing on provinces bordering the Soviet Union, the diplomats said.

Guerrillas fired rockets on Kabul five times last week and a Soviet tank collided with a passenger bus in the capital on Wednesday causing a "high" number of casualties, diplomats said. The guerrillas had spurned Soviet offers of money in return for pledging not to attack the northern Bagram air base.

The guerrillas unleashed a day-long attack on government and ruling party offices in the second biggest city of Qandahar on January 29, the diplomats said, quoting reports which said that more than 100 people were injured.

The feud between the Kahlaqi and Parchami factions in the ruling People's Democratic Party was "growing worse" in the city, they said. The Khalqis dominate the military while the Parchamis control the city administration.

Diplomats said that Soviet civilian advisors in education and mining had recently left Kabul while others were selling household goods and vacating houses in the fashionable Microryan area near the airport. [passage omitted]

'Extremist Group Ringleaders' Caught, Punished

LD051824 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Two armed extremist group ringleaders, 'Abdul Ha'i and Fazil Muhammad, who were engaged in robbery and terrorism in Qandahar Province, were recently crushed by our country's courageous security forces.

BIA's military correspondent says that the peace-loving inhabitants of Qandahar Province told this province's national reconciliation commission and security forces about the activities of the extremist groups. They also asked the security forces to prevent the extremists from committing crimes.

As a result of a timely and brave action, the courageous security forces surrounded this group and asked them to stop their stubborn resistance and surrender. But the extremists rejected this. Through blows to prevent their crimes, the security forces crushed the defeated extremist groups along with their criminal ringleaders, 'Abdul Ha'i and Fazil Ahmad, who were both professional thieves and murderers. They were punished for their evil deeds.

'Terrorist' Group Captured in Herat Province

LD052013 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] An eight-man group of professional terrorists dependent on armed extremist groups, which had been disrupting the peaceful life of the people in Zendeh Jan district, Herat Province, were captured yesterday along with their weapons and ammunition by the country's vigilant security forces.

According to the BIA military correspondent, the country's courageous security forces, in considering the demands made by the national reconciliation commission and the people, and in observing the cease-fire conditions, entered the area where terrorist activities were perpetrated and asked the terrorists to surrender to them. However, the terrorists rejected this demand and opened fire on the security forces. The security forces retaliated in order to prevent the perpetration of criminal actions by this terrorist group. As a result, the country's security forces arrested the group and seized one rocket launcher, eight light weapons, and a large amount of ammunition.

Keshtmand Addresses Cotton Growers Assembly
LD062352 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Address by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand at a meeting of cotton growers in Mazar-e Sharif on 6 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed cotton growers, dear compatriots: The convocation of this high-level assembly of cotton growers is of special importance. It manifests the serious attention the country's leadership has given to issues connected with social and economic development, including the further development of agricultural output, in particular the sowing of cotton in Afghanistan.

Dear friends, a little more than a year has passed since the policy of national reconciliation was implemented in our country at the PDPA Central Committee's initiative. The national reconciliation policy prepares the ground for establishing peace in our long-suffering country—a peace we have been waiting for for a long time—and for further developing the national economy and raising our people's standard of living. The national reconciliation policy envisions the accomplishments of important tasks, such as ensuring mutual activities in all classes of society, with attention being paid to the country's social and economic development.

As Comrade Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has mentioned in his speech to this assembly, during the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, vast measures have been taken in the political, economic, and social life of our country. [passage omitted]

In implementing the national reconciliation policy, a great role is given to accomplishing the tasks of the country's socioeconomic development. In the economic field, the government strives to implement the traditional wishes of the people in connection with a just future by getting rid of economic backwardness and by rebuilding and comprehensively developing life. The economy has been transformed into a revolutionary campaign trench.

The undeclared war, which is being continued by reactionaries and imperialists, has brought our people immeasurable suffering and great economic damage. It has destroyed thousands of homes, schools, and irrigation and industrial projects. The financial damage reaches tens of billions of afghanis. The agriculture sector of the national economy has been seriously damaged. The output of important agricultural plants—including cotton, which enjoys great importance in our country's economy—has been limited.

However, despite these difficult conditions, the important gains of the national economy during the first half of the current 5-year period have been higher than the prerevolutionary gains. For example, the gross national product in 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986], based on 1357 [year beginning 21 March 1978] prices, in comparison to 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1983], increased 18 percent and national incomes increased 10 percent. Basic investments in the productive and social services fields during the same period increased from 12 to 22.7 billion afghanis.

The rate of industrial production, in proportion to the annual average rate during the revolution, has developed more than 1.5 times. It is worth mentioning that despite the existing difficulties, the consumption level of basic foodstuffs has not decreased.

Dear friends, we have mentioned many times the great and fruitful aid of the Soviet Union which is used to help implement the socioeconomic development plans of our country. Each of you, from your own experiences, can understand the effects and results of this assistance. This year the volume of Soviet assistance to Afghanistan has increased significantly and has aided the development of our national economy. At present, enterprises which have been formed with Soviet assistance provide 3/4 of all incomes of our country's state budget.

The Soviets, based on our request, have given a lot of economic assistance in the form of grants-in-aid to help in implementing the national reconciliation policy. A large part of these grants-in-aid have been offered to the people of our country in the form of needed goods, including foodstuffs and consumer and industrial goods, either free, or at very cheap prices. The various types of cooperation—including the establishment of direct relations between republics and oblasts of the Soviet Union and provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan—are increasing and expanding. I want to express my deep appreciation for the selfless and fraternal assistance rendered by the Soviet Union, which has aided in resolving our social and economic programs. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, as was mentioned before, irrigation is a very important determining factor in agricultural output. One can say clearly that water and land, plus the traditional hard work by our peasants, is the main guarantor of an increase in the level of foodstuffs production in the country and of ensuring the welfare of peasants' families. Limited irrigation possibilities are the main cause behind the lack in raising agricultural output. Mechanical and semi-mechanical irrigation systems only provide irrigation for 330,000 hectares. Other lands are being irrigated by ordinary traditional styles, which lack control over water distribution systems. Each year, as a result of continuous flooding, noticeable damage is inflicted on the irrigation system. Peasants and organs in the Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry must clean irrigation canals and systems and rebuild dams to provide water for 750,000 hectares.

Esteemed cotton growers, at present there are important spheres in industry in which cotton and its products are used. No other agricultural product has been used by industry as widely. [passage omitted]

It is worth recalling that in the past the fields to be sown for cotton were determined by the state organs, and the peasants had to carry out their duties. If they breached these orders, the peasants were fined, and other plants grown in fields which were specified for cotton were even destroyed. However, after the victory of the April Revolution such cruel measures were cancelled and economic methods were used by the government to encourage cotton sowing.

During the years of people's power, cotton prices have doubled and the price of chemical fertilizer has been noticeably reduced. At present, for each tonne of raw cotton received from cotton growers, one tonne of chemical fertilizer, as well as vegetable oil, soup, oil cake, and [word indistinct] are distributed free of charge. The total value of the goods distributed gratis to cotton-sowing peasants is more than 10,000 afghanis. [passage omitted]

In addition, the government provides free cotton seeds to peasants, a greta many of which later fall into the hands of [word indistinct] and then the seeds are sold in the form of (?animal feed).

For example, it can be mentioned that a few years ago, 65-80 tonnes of cotton seed used to be distributed annually to the peasants in Balkh Province. As a result, 40,000-50,000 tonnes of raw material were received. But now, for example in 1986, 2,000 tonnes of cotton seed have been distributed and the harvest return is only 14,000 tonnes of raw cotton. There are a total of four gin and pressing factories, in (Spinzar), Balkh, Bost, and Herat; four ghee factories and eight textile factories in Herat, Qandahar, Balkh, Golbahar, Jabal os Saraj, Bagrami, Pol-e Khomri, and (Gozar Gah) in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Friends, the long-term draft programs for the development of the national economy up to the year 2000 are now being concluded. The program for the development of agricultural output envisages the expansion of cotton growing. A three-fold increase in raw cotton in the year 2000 compared to 1986 is envisaged. To achieve these aims, the expansion of underdeveloped land and the enhancement of output per hectare have been taken into account.

The development of cotton production, mainly by expanding its cultivation in the provinces of Helmand, Balkh, and Konduz, where climatic conditions are more favorable for cotton cultivation, has been ensured. Cotton will also be sown in land whose irrigation has been improved. Extra chemical fertilizer will be allocated for the sowing of cotton. In the future, economic conditions should be created for the purchase of raw cotton from the growers so that all cotton output will be sent to the state gin and pressing factories.

For the purpose of enhancing the interests of the farmers and expanding the cultivation and yield of cotton, the Council of Ministers, with Comrade Najibullah's approval, has ratified a specific regulation in order to increase the production of raw cotton. This regulation provides for doubling the price of cotton starting with the 1988 harvest. A farmer who, under current prices, gets 29,600 afghanis per tonne from the state, will get 60,000 afghanis per tonne from the beginning of the new harvest.

Dear friends, those who want to discuss the important task which faces us—increasing the production of cotton—will be given a chance to put forward their views. All proposals and views expressed from this platform will be carefully studied and the responsible organs will take specific action on them.

Friends, dear cotton growers, the season of spring cultivation is approaching. We expect farmers to welcome the actions taken by the state for increasing the production of cotton and anticipate a positive response to the state's attention to the farmers of the country and to your participation in national reconciliation. Thank you for your attention.

Najibullah Closing Address

LD062148 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Concluding speech by President Najibullah at a meeting of cotton growers in Mazar-e Sharif on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, the first working day of the cotton growers' assembly is ending. At the assembly, held in the historic and beautiful city of Mazar-e Sharif, you have assessed problems and questions in a free and democratic climate, pointed out existing difficulties in the field of agricultural economy, and specified ways to increase the output of cotton in the country. You have mentioned many useful matters and exchanged views with each other.

The views and proposals advanced by you, the esteemed assembly participants, will be seriously taken into account in future tasks and they will be used. Tomorrow and the day after, after visiting a number of production establishments and watching special films about cotton, you will return home. I ask that you talk with your friends, compatriots, and families about this issue of how the party and government are struggling for reconciliation and national compromise in our long-suffering land.

You have just paid a visit to the holy shrine of the Caliph 'Ali, may God honor him. This sacred place is one for all Muslims. I want to tell you that the government has allocated a sum of 14 million afghanis in the last 2 years to repair this shrine, and we will continue this cause. Second, take active part in forming local councils in the villages and districts, based on coalitions. Let the other

side or our opponents bravely join the people's power in accordance with the rights of coalition and equality, and return to their warm family life.

In the near future, a law on elections to the National Council will be approved, on which basis we will immediately embark on an election campaign. Without doubt, all political parties and organizations, and all patriotic persons will take part in this campaign.

We take a new step of goodwill on the eve of the Geneva talks. We prepare the ground for the opposition to participate in the coalition government and elections. We will save posts for our opposition in the National Council. We are sure that the most worthy representatives of the people, including the dear cotton growers, will be elected to the popular parliament of our country.

Dear friends, next year our people will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the victory of the April Revolution. I am confident that we will welcome this festival in complete agreement and with the proud traditions of our people.

Here, bordering with the Soviet Union, I want to emphasize the historical importance of our friendship with this northern neighbor. It has been inherited from our fathers and forefathers. Under conditions of national reconciliation, Soviet aid to Afghanistan has increased to 1 billion rubles for our country's social and economic development. Today, 75 percent of the total state budget income comes from establishments and projects built with Soviet assistance. Now, at a difficult time, the Soviet people are not only sharing bread, sugar, and other foodstuffs and industrial products with us, but are also helping us to end the bloodshed and fratricidal war.

Dear cotton growers, use all your might to fight for the people's prosperity and welfare and to increase cotton output. This will be your worthy contribution to national reconciliation. I pray to Almighty God to help us in this noble cause. [applause]

India

Gandhi Rules Out Compromise on Siachen Issue

BK091608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister has ruled out any compromise on India's stand on the Siachen Glacier area of Ladakh. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made it clear that the area is part of our country. India's position on the issue is absolutely clear. He also said that pressures are mounting on our northern borders but our forces are strong enough to meet any challenge.

The prime minister was speaking to newsmen today after dedicating to the nation the Salal hydro-electric project on the River Chenab at (Angur) about 100 kilometers from Jammu. The first phase of the project has been completed at a cost of 585 crore rupees and will generate 345 mw of power. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab; 2 Arrested

BK100857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists killed five persons, including a woman, in three separate incidents in Amritsar and Bhatinda Districts last night. Gopal Singh and his wife were shot dead in Muchhal village, one person was gunned down in Sangrala village, and another in Bagarian village. In Bhatinda District, a farmer, Hardev Singh, was killed in (Bruj Kharon).

Meanwhile, two terrorists were arrested by the security forces following an encounter in Sargar village in Gurdaspur District last night. According to an official spokesman, some arms and ammunition and incriminating documents were recovered from their possession.

Iran

Khamene'i Greets Khomeyni on 10 Days on Dawn

LD101212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] On the 10th day of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn, and on the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, Hojjat ol-Eslam Falsafi, a large group of clergy and state and military personalities, Cabinet members, and a gathering of foreign guests participating in the ceremonies celebrating the victory of the revolution, as well as foreign ambassadors residing in Tehran, met with Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence in Tehran]. President Khamene'i offered his congratulations to the imam of the ummah on the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Imam Khomeyni then made a detailed speech. I now draw your attention to the president's greeting at this meeting:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the blessed and history-making period of dawn and the dawn of the new stage of the history of Islam and our country to all the world's Muslims, particularly to the Iranian nation and to our eminent and great leader, who has played the most sensitive and the most determining role in the creation of this great event.

We are now entering the 10th year in the life of this unprecedented and transformative revolution. During these 10 years, as a result of God's blessings and grace and the firm, enlightening, and unprecedented leadership of you, our dear and great leader, as well as with the

blessings of the self-sacrificing dedication and jihad of the nation, we have made great strides in the revolution during the past 9 years speedily and without pause, although since the dawn of the revolution the global enemies of Islam have placed obstacles and barriers in the path of the revolution movement. However, this tumultuous river, this great current will not stop as a result of obstacles. Obstacles will intensify the force of the revolution, just like a dam that bars a great current of water. Yet what will finally succeed is the holy and natural force of that great current. It will break down the barriers, it will remove the obstacles, and it will continue its path towards light and freedom and the independence of Muslim nations and all oppressed and poor nations.

We see the future in this light and we see a bright outlook for the revolution. We believe that there are great lessons in this revolution, not only for Muslim nations, but for all oppressed nations and for all people who suffer from the domination of global powers over the lives of people and nations.

Once again, on my behalf and on behalf of the present gathering, which includes the country's authorities and the dear guests of the 10 Days of Dawn and ambassadors residing in Tehran, and a collection of various strata of the people, I offer my congratulations to our dear imam. We all anxiously await your eminence's blessed and enlightened words. May God's mercy and blessings be upon you all. [end recording]

Khomeyni Speech on Anniversary of Revolution
LD101312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni at a meeting to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution at his residence in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. What I wish to say, after offering my congratulations to all Muslims and all the oppressed on the occasion of these 10 days, is that no one should think that the revolution depends on any individual. I must say that if I have been involved, it has been just the involvement of a member of society. What there is comes from Almighty God. It is Almighty God who transformed this nation from one state into another. He is the power who changes people's hearts. He is the power in control of all affairs and in charge of all matters. Otherwise, we are nothing; we are no one. It was He who changed this nation, which had every reason to be defeated, so completely that, thanks be to God, it became victorious. And victory belongs to God.

I have seen repeatedly, since becoming involved in these matters, that on many occasions we wanted to do something, but would then be distracted from our course. Then we would realize that the distraction was justified and it was the right thing to do. There was no reason for this, but it was the wish of Almighty God. We used to embark on a trip, and then we would realize that if we had to change course due to the force of circumstances, this would serve our objective. What used to happen against our wishes was the best alternative, and not what we intended to do.

I have seen in every aspect of life that our thoughts do not accomplish anything—thoughts are in the hands of Almighty God. He is in control of every affair. We should believe this. Our nation should believe that if, God forbid, Almighty God gives up hope in the world, the world will be destroyed. The world exists because of the will of Almighty God. If He were to deny us His favor for one moment, the whole of the universe and creation would be destroyed. It is the constant will of God which protects everything.

However, we are ignorant and we do not realize this fact. In general, all mankind's suffering stems from this ignorance. If this ignorance were removed, all the suffering would disappear. If mankind realized that everything comes from Him, there would be no more suffering. This is a state experienced only by the saints. They are also bestowed with some other gifts that (?are not known). We must note that we are only one corner of the world. We are only a population of several millions, and compared with the rest of the world, we are very small. The population is very small and we should have been destroyed immediately in the face of the countless conspiracies. What saved us was God, and not our own power.

What defeated the big powers, and what defeats big powers, is God, just as it is the case that He who bestows power is God. The big powers do not realize that it is the power of God, and their problem stems from this affliction. We should believe in the fact that it is through the blessings of God that we have come this far from nothing, and it is through the blessings of God that we have been able—that is, this nation, for I am nothing—to deliver this country from the yoke of monarchical oppression, and from worse than that, the yoke of America, the Soviet Union, and others.

It is unprecedented for a nation to stand on its own feet and say: Neither this nor that. There is no precedent for it. Everyone relies on someone, even though it is all reliance upon God. They do not know it, but everyone in his own way relies on something. Praise be to God that our nation, thanks to God's most exalted blessings and God's most exalted apostles, was granted faith, was given strength. This nation rejected everyone; it stood up and said: We want independence, we want freedom. If the nation continues in this way, you should be confident that its rays of light will cover the whole world.

Praise be to God that what is being talked about the world over today is Iran. Some throw insults, some utter good words. The fear that is being talked about everywhere is based on the fact that there is a power here to reckon with. Otherwise, there would not be any insults if

it were of no consequence. This was the case in the past when it was being pushed around, but no one insulted it. Now you see the whole world and all its propaganda is against us—and most of them do not realize that what they imagine to be against us is in fact in our favor. If you look carefully, most of the things they say against us are in fact to our benefit. They do not realize this. This, too, is one of God's blessings.

What is important is for us to realize that the well-spring of everything is the most exalted God. We should not delude ourselves that we did anything or think that it was I who did anything, for if this line of thinking were pursued defeat would follow. The spiritual defeat is obvious, but there will be physical defeat as well. However, I hope this nation, whose power and progress increases daily, will continue its advance and that the world will become a free world, God willing, and will deliver itself from the yoke of the powerful, and that in a free world the people will be delivered from the oppressors.

Those who are expressing support for those nations under their control are in fact trampling those nations underfoot. When America says a good word about someone or some place it is praising itself, for it sees that they are all its subordinates. When it criticizes us every day, it is because it can see that this nation is not subordinate, and it wants us to be subordinate. If the government ever said one word that would be pleasing to America, it would also change its entire stance in favor of the nation, but in truth this would not be in your favor. Then everything would end for you. I hope that all nations will join hands and prevent those powers from gaining control once again.

Look at Palestine today. I would like to say that without exception they have joined hands to prevent the Palestinians from continuing the path they have adopted. Sometimes their attitude appears in the form of sympathy for that nation to sort things out. The Palestinian nation must realize that if it retreats one step from its current position, it will be back at the beginning. Right now Palestine is nearly destroying the Jews, and we hope it will do so. If it continues its Islamic stance and ignores those who appear to be sympathetic, as it were—their sympathy being aimed at deceiving the Palestinians—those who say let us have a cease-fire for a while, and those things you all know. [sentence as heard] All this is aimed at preventing Palestine from maintaining the position it has adopted. They want to silence it and trample it underfoot once again.

The same applies to us. If they showed a favorable stance toward us, you should be aware that this is aimed at trampling us underfoot. Every time they show a favorable stance toward you, you should take a tougher position. I hope that God, through the blessings of the immaculate imams, in particular his holiness the hidden imam, peace be upon him, to whom this country belongs, this nation will continue its path, and that all those who are serving this nation will be successful, God willing. May peace and God's benedictions be upon you.

Khomeyni Frees Prisoners, Reduces Sentences

LD091822 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Semnan, Feb. 9, IRNA—A total of 82 prisoners were pardoned and set free from jails in Semnan and Garmsar here today on orders from the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

According to the Islamic Revolution Tribunal, prison terms of 39 other inmates at these jails were reduced by half, one third and one fourth on the same occasion.

Meanwhile as part of Imam's amnesty for repentant inmates, 130 others were released from jails in the southern port of Bushehr today, 112 of whom had been sentenced by the Islamic Revolution Court and the rest by an ordinary court.

Khamene'i Addresses Foreign Ambassadors

LD101105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0805 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at a meeting with foreign ambassadors on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution at the President's Office in Tehran—live in Persian with sentence-by-sentence translation into English]

[Text] I would like to thank the dean of the diplomatic mission for his good wishes on his own behalf and on behalf of your excellencies for the people of Iran, for the government, and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I also thank him for his kind statement about the Islamic Revolution of Iran. I would like to express my best wishes to you gentlemen. I would like to wish you every success in fulfilling your good efforts to consolidate and deepen relations between the revolutionary people of Iran, the great country of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other countries of the world.

For Iran, these days are great days that can never be forgotten. These are the days of salvation and relief after 2 centuries. The Iranian people have been able, thanks to their own efforts, to put an end to many difficulties. In the last centuries, all our national difficulties—poverty, ignorance, backwardness, lack of industrial development, and modernization of our country—have suppressed the talents of our people, This situation was brought about by international big powers' domination over this nation and the country and its policies. This oppressive domination reached its climax during the last 50 years, particularly in the last 20 years when the United States' domination of our country was at its height. They did whatever they could against this nation.

Anything needed for a good, honorable life with self-esteem was taken away from this nation. The only thing they could not take away was its deep belief in their religion and its rich talent for the reconstruction and revival of this great movement. The wrath of this nation, that had been held in check during the 15 years of the struggle being carried out under the leadership of the clergy, finally erupted and pushed them towards a great movement. Nine years ago, on a day like this, that is to say, on the 21st, 22d, and 23d of Bahman [10-12 February], the wrath of this nation exploded and put an end to the oppressive and repressive regime of the Pahlavi kingdom. That regime was replaced with a system based on the deep and conscientious faith of the people; that is, the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All domestic and foreign policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on respect for a deep Islamic faith, strong belief in the necessity of prosperity and perfection for all human beings, and belief in the fact that this nation, by drawing on international experience and through its own talent, can reach the desired order most suited to it.

One of the main axes of foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to keep away as much as possible from the hegemonist and domination-seeking powers of the world. We have established relations with all countries of the world on the basis of mutual respect and common interest and with respect for safeguarding each other's independence and national identity. Our nation has for many long years suffered from the domination of big global powers and is now able to respond to the international politics of the world. Now it will not fall under the domination of international powers of the world. Our struggle against world domination of big powers is one of the basis of our foreign policy.

On the other hand, in the course of the last 9 years the dominating powers of the world have hatched many plots against this country, this revolution, and this nation. Many hostile policies and lines have been followed against this revolution in our country. The imposed war was one of these conspiracies and one of these methods employed against this revolution and the people of Iran. Its goal was to prevent this revolution from embarking on the proper work of reconstruction, and to deprive the revolution from the opportunities needed for reconstruction.

There is no doubt that the message of the God-seeking people of Iran and this revolution has been heard by many governments, by many countries in the world. It has had the desired effect and received the right responses. As a result, we have friendly relations with most countries of the world, sometimes very sincere and cordial. On the whole, I can say that we have joint and useful cooperation with most countries.

In dealing with the imposed war and also with the other conspiracies hatched against our nation, we rely on the great power of our nation and the outstanding solidarity and unity between the nation and the responsible authorities. We believe that any retreat in the face of oppression and bullying will only encourage the bullies. Moreover, we do not want to encourage our enemies to become more aggressive by retreating in the face of these aggressive actions of big powers.

The military presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf was in fact an aggression aimed at limiting the Iranian Revolution. The policies that from the very beginning did not endorse the presence in the Persian Gulf are little by little coming to understand that this is not the right decision. [sentence as heard] We consider them as realistic policies adopted by these countries. On the Persian Gulf issue, we believe that the task of securing this region is the exclusive duty of regional forces. We, the countries of the Persian Gulf region, are quite capable of safeguarding the security of this region. The logical and reasonable way to safeguard security in this region is, first of all, to identify the main source of tension. I think it is not very difficult to identify who the source of tension in our region is. Everybody knows that the Iraqi regime is the initiator of tension and the main element of tension in our region. By placing pressure on the elements creating tension in our region, security can be achieved.

It is on the basis of this same theory that we can discuss the problems in Palestine. Any retreat on the part of the Palestinian people will encourage the occupiers and their supporting powers to continue their aggression. The methods recently adopted by the people of Palestine are the most logical methods they can adopt in order to realize the rights of a nation which has been deprived of its own homeland. We appreciate and express our sympathy with the people of Palestine, who in their house and on their own land are living like foreigners and strangers. We seriously call on all governments of the world, all free-minded and justice-seeking personalities of the world, and particularly the Islamic governments of the world, to listen to the message of the people of Palestine in order to understand what they want and to identify the rights and help them in the face of their aggressive enemies.

In conclusion, I would like to beseech Almighty God to bestow success upon all of you gentlemen.

Majlis Speaker Urges Participation in Rallies

LD100824 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday called on the nation to participate in Thursday's rallies marking the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. His recorded call was broadcast on the Iranian radio.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the the Iranians for their perseverence and for their fighting in the fronts, and expressed confidence that under Imam Khomeyni's leadership they will hold out in the war to an eventual triumph, and that they will reconstruct their country after such a victory.

He said the nationwide rallies Thursday would be a symbolic demonstration of the masses's devotion to the Islamic Revolution, and of their resolve to fight for it.

Musavi Speaks at Ahvaz Celebrations
LD091408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] We continue the news with a report on Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit to the battlefronts and to the liberated city of Al-Faw and his meeting with the fighters of Islam:

This morning the prime minister took part in the celebrations of the various strata of the people marking the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The celebrations were held at Imam Khomeyni's prayer premises in Ahvaz. Hojjat ol-Eslam Jazayeri, the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Ahvaz, welcomed the prime minister's arrival in Khuzestan Province. Amid the slogan "War, war until victory," chanted by the steadfast people of Ahvaz, the prime minister started to speak.

The prime minister praised the steadfastness and endurance of the people of Khuzestan Province and said: Khuzestan, which has experienced many hardships in the course of the revolution and after the revolution, due to its most favorable geographic position, will play a decisive role in the future rebuilding of the country and in our national economy.

He added: With the travels of the people from all over the country to this province and the fact that the people of this province have become battle-hardened—this province's greatest asset—God willing, we will make this province prosperous.

In comparing the political and cultural situation of Iran before and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he described the motives of world arrogance in confronting the Islamic Revolution and said: Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran was regarded as a regional extension of the superpowers. However, today, the same Iran, as a result of the Islamic Revolution and the blood of the precious martyrs of Islam, has been turned into an extension of all the oppressed and deprived people of the world. It is this fact that has forced world arrogance into the role of the greatest foe of the Islamic Republic of Iran. While before the revolution Iran acted as a mercenary against any liberation movement, now the Islamic Republic has become a source of inspiration for Islamic movements against superpowers. Moreover, the people of Palestine and other suppressed Muslims of the world are deriving their inspiration from the slogans of our ever-present-on-the-scene nation.

Continuing his speech, the prime minister referred to the aggression of U.S. and NATO forces in the Persian Gulf and said: In the past they had noticed that as soon as a warship appeared near the shores of a country, that country would surrender. They also had the same foolish idea regarding our nation. At the moment, they have 80 warships in the Persian Gulf, and on a number of occasions they have even attacked our terminals and ships. The United States expected that as soon as it arrived in the Persian Gulf, our nation would surrender and that it could wring a compromise from the Islamic Republic. However, the United States noticed that our great nation did not take even one step backward. What they see is resistance and self-sacrifice. Contrary to their beliefs, our nation so influenced U.S. policies that a number of U.S. Government officials had to resign their posts.

He added: Following that, they issued a resolution and simultaneously raised the issue of an economic and arms embargo, hoping they could somehow force a compromise on the Islamic Republic. However, our nation neutralized all these conspiracies, and the powerful fighters of Islam with their iron will confronted the advanced warships in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, even if we were not going to refer to any gains by the Islamic Revolution, this in itself is sufficient proof that this nation has great strength and endurance and has inflicted misery and degradation on the United States.

At the end, Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed the need for continuing the battle until final victory and said: The Muslim Iranian nation is ready for self-sacrifice and resistance to the very end, to the last person and to the last drop of blood. It is our belief that the weapon of martyrdom is our greatest weapon against world arrogance.

According to a Central News Report, after these ceremonies, the prime minister was presented with a check for 20 million rials by the teachers and students of Khuzestan Province and one precious gold bracelet by the family of one of the esteemed martyrs to be used to help the fronts in the war between truth and falsehood.

Yesterday Mir Hoseyn Musavi in a 7-hour visit to "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone, accompanied by a number of operational commanders of the IRGC, met with the fighters of Islam in the front lines of the battlefields. On the banks of the mighty Arvand River he inspected an innovative bridge constructed by the Construction Jihad and was informed of its special technical and engineering features.

Mr Musavi then arrived in the liberated city of Al-Faw and met with the fighters of Islam stationed there. He inspected Al-Faw's cultural, artistic, health, municipal, and developmental activities and the roads which had

been constructed or repaired by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation. In the mosque in the city of Al-Faw, the prime minister, in a speech honoring the elderly self-sacrificing fighters and fighting members of the clergy stationed in Al-Faw, praised their valuable services. The prime minister also inspected four Iraqi oil exporting terminals which are now under the control of the forces of Islam, and the fighters of Islam described how those terminals were conquered during the liberation of the city of Al-Faw.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of our country, left Ahvaz at noon today.

New Zealand Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD092009 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—New Zealand's Minister of Agriculture James Moyle left here Tuesday for Wellington after attending the second session of the Iran-New Zealand joint economic commission.

A letter of understanding was inked between the two countries in the commercial, agricultural, industrial and mineral fields during Moyle's visit to the Islamic Republic.

According to the letter, the Islamic Republic is to import meat, wool and diary products in exchange for dlrs. 180 million export of oil annually to New Zealand.

In a talk with IRNA before his departure, Moyle considered his talks with Iranian officials as 'positive'. He said New Zealand is prepared to cooperate with Iran in research fields as well as training Iranian experts and farmers.

Fundamental steps will be taken concerning foodstuff and agricultural products as part of long-term cooperation between the two countries, he assured.

Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali who saw off his counterpart told IRNA, that the New Zealand delegation visited Iran to attend the second session of the joint commission. He added, a letter of understanding was signed concerning industry, trade and agriculture which specified mutual cooperation for next year.

Iran and New Zealand will cooperate in the fields of exchange of experts, cattle-breeding, improvement of breeding stocks, pasture land and forests, he said. New Zealand is to establish a slaughter house in Iran and the resulting wastes will be fully exploited, he disclosed.

On the two countries' trade exchanges, Zali said some dlrs. 157 million worth of goods was purchased from New Zealand last year and the figure will increase to dlrs. 180 M in the current year.

While in Iran, the New Zealand minister of agriculture conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, as well as ministers of commerce and Construction Jihad Hasan Abedi Ja'fari, and Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, respectively.

UK Minesweepers To Leave; 'Failure' of Mission

LD091801 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 9, IRNA—All four British minesweepers operating in the Persian Gulf are set to be withdrawan and replaced with one vessel working in conjunction with the Dutch and Belgians.

The Defence Ministry said Tuesday that a replacement minesweeper, the "Dulderton," was already on its way out and would be almost there now, but would not specify when the four previously on station would come home.

"They are not actually sweeping at the moment," the spokesman told IRNA, but dismissed earlier suggestions that the vessels had been moved to an Indian port.

The "Bicester," "Hurworth," "Brocklesby" and "Brecon" were despatched to the Persian Gulf last September and THE LONDON TIMES reported Tuesday that all were now destined to be withdrawn.

The Defence Ministry does not confirm operational changes in advance but the spokesman said that they may be replaced. By how many, he was unable to say and could only acknowledge that the "Dulderton" was the only one en route.

Britain had originally planned to replace the crews on its sweepers to prevent the fibre-glass vessels having to embark upon long distance voyages, but had got involved in discussions with Brussels and The Hague to rationalise their operations.

The Defence Ministry said that "closer operational links" had been worked out with the Belgians and the Dutch but was "not to the extent of a single command."

Belgium has already withdrawn one of its two minesweepers originally in the Persian Gulf and The Netherlands is thought likely to do the same, which would leave one vessel from each of the three countries cooperating together.

The European minesweepers had been dispatched to the Persian Gulf to symbolize their support for the American military build-up and are now seen further copying the U.S. example of a partial withdrawal in recognition of the failure of their mission to harass Iran.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,107

LD091602 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Three Iraqi 'Mirage' jet-fighters were shot down in dog fights with Iranian fighters over the Persian Gulf at 10:11, 10:12 and 12:42 hours local time (06:41, 06:42 and 09:12 GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here today.

The 3107th Joint Staff Communique said that the Islamic Republic Air Force also carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy.

Iran's Muslim combatants, besides their defensive measures, opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the battlefields Monday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

In the northwestern sector, Iranian artillery fire suppressed activities of an Iraqi infantry unit and checked enemy engineering operations in Panjwin Monday. Movement of an Iraqi motorized column was also checked in Sayyid-Sadiq over the same period.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, and at least five enemy gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces yesterday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Monday was repelled by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

Iraqi tank squadrons, moving in Eynkhosh and Chazabeh, southern fronts, yesterday were shelled by Iranian combatants as a result of which heavy losses were inflicted on enemy tanks, concluded the communique.

'Novel' Interception Techniques

LD101135 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, OANA/IRNA—Iran's fighters Tuesday intercepted all Iraqi planes over the Persian Gulf and downed three of them into the waterway, according to an operations commander here Wednesday. He said the Iranian pilots employed novel dogfighting techniques, but did not elaborate. The commander said Iraqi fighters Tuesday tried seven times to attack commercial ships in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf, but that the quick response by the Iranian pilots had foiled Iraq's scheme.

Baghdad was shocked at the news, and soon sent more warplanes to the Persian Gulf, but faced with Iranian fighters the Iraqi pilots aborted their mission.

The Air Force commander said the pilots of two Iraqi warplanes were killed in the attack, but that a third pilot had bailed out.

Pakistan

USSR Remarks on Afghan Pullout 'Welcomed'

BK091556 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed Soviet leader Gorbachev's offer to cut short the timetable for the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan and the announcement of a fixed date. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani told a news conference in Islamabad this evening that the Soviet decision is welcomed because it will withdraw the bulk of its forces during the first phase of the troop withdrawal process. He said that the Soviet leader's statement will brighten prospects for an early solution of the Afghan issue.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is ready to accelerate its efforts toward a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan issue. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the efforts being made for a peaceful settlement of the issue through negotiations and said that the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the return of more than 3 million Afghan refugees from Pakistan to their homes are vital for an effective and practical settlement. He said that during meetings with Cordovez, Pakistan has reiterated its position that the Afghan people be granted their rights to self-determination in order to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Pakistan will also continue to support the proposal for the interim arrangement in Afghanistan in order to end the fighting in that country and to create a situation in which the Geneva agreement is fully implemented.

When asked about the reports that former King Zahir Shah may become the leader of the coalition government, the minister of state said that Pakistan has no objection if the Afghan people, the resistance movement, and the Afghan refugees in Pakistan agree.

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives for Afghan Talks

BK100829 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, arrived in Islamabad this morning. He will have in-depth discussions with the Pakistani leaders on all aspects of the Afghan settlement. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

The deputy foreign minister of Cuba, Mr Giraldo Mazola, also arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day visit to Pakistan.

The Libyan foreign minister, Mr Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived in Islamabad this morning to lead a Libyan delegation at a joint ministerial commission meeting of Pak-Libya. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Libyan foreign minister said they would hold discussions on various matters to increase cooperation and further the existing friendship between the two brotherly Islamic countries.

Meets With Noorani

BK101121 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The visiting Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, had a meeting with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. He discussed various aspects of the Afghanistan problem.

Earlier, the Soviet deputy foreign minister held talks with senior Foreign Office officials.

UN's Cordovez Holds News Conference on Talks

BK091648 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has said that a virtual agreement has been reached on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the next round of Geneva proximity talks will be held from the 2d of next month. He was addressing a news conference prior to his departure at the end of his 21-day shuttle to the area. He said as a result of his current shuttle, the two sides have agreed on the withdrawal of the bulk of troops [as heard]. The UN mediator expressed the confidence that the question of a phased withdrawal of troops has been well-prepared and details of logistic arrangements for monitoring mechanism will be looked into at the Geneva negotiation. He pointed out that the monitoring mechanism will be carried out by senior UN military personnel.

To a question, the UN envoy said there was a consensus between the parties on three things: A broader government in Kabul is going to facilitate the implementation of the settlement more smoothly and effectively. The Afghans and Afghans alone should decide what the government should be and that the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan should not be interlinked with the question of withdrawal of foreign forces.

Replying to another question whether the Geneva process has the backing of the Afghan [resistance] alliance leaders, Mr Cordovez expressed his confidence that their attitude would change the moment an agreement is reached at Geneva. But [words indistinct] at the conclusion of an agreement.

The UN envoy had separate meetings with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo before his departure for New York. Mr Cordovez briefed them on his talks in Kabul and the understanding reached for a comprehensive solution of the Afghan issue. The president appreciated the efforts of Mr Cordovez for finding a solution of the Afghanistan problem. The prime minister was apprised of the concerted efforts made by the UN envoy in bringing about the understanding for resolving the Afghan problem. He said Mr Cordovez had demonstrated an exemplary patience and perseverance in conducting the most difficult negotiation.

UAE President Begins 6-Day Visit to Lahore

BK071150 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The United Arab Emirates president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, arrived in Lahore this afternoon from Rahimyar Khan by a special plane on a 6-day visit to the provincial capital. Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi; provincial chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif; and senior officials received him at the airport.

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK090358 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan, met with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Lahore last night. They exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest. Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, and several other ministers from the UAE were also present on the occasion. Later, the president hosted a dinner in honor of the UAE president.

DAWN Urges Mujahidin Involvement in Talks

BK081515 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Jan 88 p 21

[Editorial: "A Neutral Afghanistan"]

[Text] The report that the United States and the USSR are discussing an arrangement under which Afghanistan will be declared a neutral state is encouraging. If the Austrian pattern is adopted, as has been indicated by media reports, Afghanistan will be expected to issue a declaration of permanent neutrality to pave the way for a Soviet withdrawal. Technically, this would be the correct procedure, since as a sovereign state Afghanistan should not have neutrality imposed on it by outside powers. The requirement, under the provisions of the Geneva instrument relating to non-interference in Afghanistan, of firm guarantees from the super-powers for respecting Afghan neutrality should not, however, be viewed as incompatible with the concept. The present Afghan situation is qualitatively different from the one

in Austria as at the end of World War II. Such guarantees were not warranted in the case of Austria because the military presence of all the four Allied Powers had prevented any one of them from exercising any preponderant influence over that country. In the case of Afghanistan, where the Soviet forces have been in control, an effective mechanism to ensure the neutrality of the country is imperative. This would be central to any peace settlement in Afghanistan in view of the fact that the war in that country has virtually emerged as a confrontation by proxy between Moscow and Washington. Since neither of the two sides—the Soviet-supported Afghan regime or the U.S-backed Mujahidin—has inflicted a military defeat on the other, it would be unrealistic to expect the Russians or the Americans to withdraw from Afghanistan until the future status of the country was settled within a statutory framework. Hence, an agreement providing for non-interference by the two superpowers which would ensure the neutrality of Afghanistan should logically be a prerequisite for a Soviet pull-out and the cessation of American aid to the guerrillas.

With Moscow repeatedly declaring its intention of withdrawing from Afghanistan in 1988, an agreement between the superpowers on Afghanistan's neutrality has acquired overriding importance. This is necessary if the grim prospect of a prolonged bloodbath in Afghanistan in the wake of a Soviet pullout is to be averted. Besides, a neutral Afghanistan should help create the necesary security and political environment for Pakistan and Iran to be able to follow a truly nonaligned foreign policy. Reports emanating from Islamabad in the last few days, coinciding with Mr Diego Cordovez's latest round of shuttle diplomacy, make it evident that the most crucial factor in the Afghan situation now is the position the Mujahidin adopt on important issues connected with a settlement of the eight-year-old conflict. If they refuse to lay down arms and block agreement on the composition of a post-withdrawal government in Kabul, they can thwart a peace settlement. If it rejects the Geneva peace process, the Mujahidin alliance will be held responsible for slowing down the pace of diplomacy for a settlement. The general belief is that the guerrillas' approach to peace in Afghanistan can be influenced by Pakistan and the United States both of which have played a key role in building up the strength of the resistance movement. In reality this may not prove as simple a task as is supposed in view of the mood and inclinations being displayed lately by a section of the Mujahidin. But the plain fact is that without the active cooperation of the Mujahidin, no interim government can really be effective and no peace agreement can be implemented.

So far the guerrillas have been kept out of the peace process and have been only consulted and briefed by Pakistan and American leaders. Now that there are hints that Mr Cordovez is exploring the possibility of an all-party dialogue which would include the Mujahidin, the PDPA regime, and the Afghan exiles, it may be possible to bring the resistance leaders round to a more conciliatory frame of mind on the basic aspects of a comprehensive settlement. The Mujahidin have also modified their stand somewhat and indicated that they would enter into negotiations with Mr Cordovez if they are recognised as a party to the conflict. It is time to enlist the participation of the guerrillas—whatever the mode—to expedite the peace proces for resolving the Afghan conflict.

Front Leader Calls For Confederation System

BK081527 Karachi DAWN in English
30 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Larkana, Jan 29: Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, Convener, Sindhi Baluch Pashtun Front (SBPF), said here on Friday [29 January] that the days of federal-loving political parties were numbered as a fastly growing wave of nationalism had started sweeping the country.

Addressing the first convention of SBPF workers at People's Stadium here today, he pointed to the changing course of politics and said there was now no room for the parties having federal structure.

He said it was the federal set-up that culminated in the disintegration of Pakistan.

He recalled that at a meeting with him in jail, the executed Prime Minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, had accepted "my idea of confederation" and was of the view that if he had accepted confederation he would not have been behind bars."

Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto reiterated his conviction that confederation was now the only solution so as to save the country from further dismemberment.

Without naming PPP, he said it was in the what he called a "crumbling state" and referring to the MRD's 1983 movement, he said that was nothing but the product of "a deal" reached between Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chief of National People's Party, and the Generals. Later, the Generals left Mr Jatoi in a morass, he added.

Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto further said that all parties conference, Bhanot Conference, Sindhi People's National Alliance and others of the kind were merely the ad hoc measures to overcome the situation. He said the front had decided to support all such moves that favoured nationalities and the smaller provinces' rights.

He said it was the "naked truth" that construction of Kalabagh Dam and setting up of army cantonment in Sind were conspiracy to further "chain" Sindhis.

The first workers' convention of Sindhi Baluch Pashtun Front was held here in the People's Stadium on Friday, presided over by its convener Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto. The convention was largely attended. Central leaders along with those of state committees were present on the occasion.

The first session of the convention was alloted to the annual reports of progress coupled with suggestions. The General Secretary of the SBPF Larkana branch, Mr Abdul Latif Bughio, presented a brief but comprehensive report and pointed to many flaws in the organisation. His views were supported by many of the speakers from all over the country drawn from student wings and labour wing.

Earlier, Mr Abdul Rehman Lakho, organiser Larkana SBPF, presented an address of welcome, in which he admitted that the "Front men" had participated in the recent local bodies elections but in individual capacity. They captured 10 seats in Larkana District Council and retained many vital offices in the union councils too in the district and even won the chairmanship of District Council, Karachi. He was referring to Shafi Jamot, acting organiser of Sind SBPF, Chairman of Karachi District Council.

He said the record of Larkana's numerous offices had been seized by the police in the campaign against the Front leaders.

The character of the landlord was mainly the target of criticism as most of the speakers and Taluka [revenue area] organisers of the Front lashed out at "Waderas" [landlords] who had nothing to do with the concept of confederation.

A resolution adopted by the convention demanded pull-back of the army from the interior of Sind, condemning the recent incident in Hyderabad where four young innocent villagers were gunned down by the law-enforcing agencies and demanding the judicial inquiry into the matter. Another resolution paid rich tributes to Khan Ghafar Khan and Abdul Razzak Dhotani. The session stood up and observed "one minute's silence" as a mark of respect to the departed leaders.

Sri Lanka

Indian Envoy Interviewed on Troop Presence

BK091420 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 9 (AFP)—India will boost its troop strength in Sri Lanka to 50,000 by Monday in a bid to restore peace before May, Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) Jyotindra Nath Dixit said here Tuesday.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, he said soldiers would be reinforced in the troubled Eastern Province in a bid to restore "optimum levels of normalcy by the end of April" and enable Sri Lanka to stage provincial elections.

A state of normalcy could mean that even if the dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was crushed as a military organisation, individual acts of terrorism could still be committed, Mr Dixit said.

He would not confirm reports in Sri Lanka that India would shortly launch a major offensive in eastern Batticaloa District where rebels still kill civilians, police, and soldiers daily.

Sri Lankan officials said the Indians were planning to saturate the region by pouring in thousands of troops, but an all-out military offensive against the rebels was unlikely.

"Our motive is not to decimate and destroy" the LTTE, Mr Dixit said. If the Tigers would lay down arms and return to the political mainstream, talks could resume, he added.

Before reinforcements began arriving at the beginning of February, only about 3,000 Indians were in Batticaloa, but some 20,000 soldiers are expected to be deployed there, security sources said.

Batticaloa residents contacted by telephone said Indian troops have stepped up search operations against the LTTE, the only separatist group still opposed to a New Delhi-backed peace plan aimed at ending nearly five years of ethnic conflict.

By Monday, 42,000 Indian soldiers were already in Sri Lanka to disarm the LTTE under the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Accord, and reinforcement would continue up to 50,000 by next Monday (February 15), Mr Dixit said.

"We are absolutely determined to fully implement the accord," the high commissioner said. He believed the LTTE was rapidly losing popular support. "People do not like to live under the shadow of the gun."

He added that if necessary even more troops could be brought in, but denied reports that moves were already under way to bring the total to 70,000.

If normalcy returned to the east, elections to a new provincial council uniting the former Northern and Eastern Provinces could be held between May and August, Mr Dixit said.

President Junius Jayewardene on Sunday expressed confidence that Indian troops would "silence" the dominant Tamil militant group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam before the end of April.

Mr Dixit would not give a date for an Indian pullout. "We will leave when we have fulfilled our obligations in the agreement in consultation with the president of Sri Lanka.

"But we have no timetable short or long."

Pressure has been growing in Sri Lanka for the withdrawal of Indian troops who have been deployed in the Northern and Eastern Provinces for more than six months.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told parliament on January 18 that Sri Lankans were of "one mind" that the "foreign army should depart."

India has lost nearly 400 soldiers since launching an offensive concentrated on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna Peninsula on October 10.

India says more than 1,200 suspected rebels have died in the fighting.

Nationwide 'Terrorist' Incidents Detailed

BK100847 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—Three bags of nitrogen phosphate enough to manufacture as many as 2,000 improvised explosive devices were captured by the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

During search operations in the peninsula, Indian troops captured an LTTE terrorist in the Jaffna Market area.

At Velanai, Indian troops seized one 82 mm mortar barrel, two 82 mm mortar tripods and two 62 mm mortar barrels.

At Chunnakam, fifteen 82 mm bombs were recovered.

Four LTTE terrorists were captured at Varani while at Madduvil six .22 rifles were seized.

At Pandirippu, Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka LTTE terrorists shot dead Sunderam Kandasamy (30) an EPRLF terrorist at Mariamman Kovil road last Monday.

At Beliatta, Hambantota District, southern Sri Lanka, a person identified as G.M. Hector Silva was shot at by unidentified armed men.

He succumbed to his injuries on admission to the Matara Hospital.

Last evening, Anthony Cooray, a trade union president of the Moratuwa Sri Lanka Transport Board was shot at and wounded at Tudugala, Dodangoda, Kalutara also in the south.

He was returning home after work and the assailant is alleged to have travelled in the same bus and when Anthony Cooray stepped off the bus he had been shot at.

An accomplice had been waiting on a motorcycle for the gunman.

The assailant had got on to the pillion and rode off.

Cooray is now warded at the Nagoda Hospital.

LTTE Landmine Kills 10

BK100851 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0840 GMT 10 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—Eight Sri Lankan policemen and two civilians were killed at Kuchchveli in Trincomalee eastern Sri Lanka this morning when the vehicle they were travelling in ran into an LTTE landmine, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

Reinforcements rushed to the scene and after a firefight that ensued the terrorists withdrew.

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